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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF

1799-1800.

"——— I wish no other herald,
" No other speaker of my living actions,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But such an honest chronicler."

HEN. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2.

"——— Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
" Ærugo mera; quod vitium procul afora chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
" Possum aliud vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

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—••••—
1799.

[Price Half a Guinea in Boards.]

PUBLIC

CHARACTERS

1799-1800



TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY

PRINTED FOR RICHARD BENTLEY

AT THE SIGN OF THE LION IN THE STREET

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

AND SOLD BY THE BOOKSELLERS
AND CO. OF ROSS-STREET, LONDON
DIRECT: A BARNARD, FURNISHES, & LONDON
BY ALL BOOKSELLERS

1799

[Printed by a Gentleman in the City]

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE favourable reception with which the former volume of this work was honoured, the rapid sale of two very large editions in Great Britain, and the avidity with which it was translated into foreign languages and re-published in Ireland and America, render it unnecessary for the editor to expatiate on the nature and utility of the design.

In the preface to that volume, he described at large the peculiar advantages possessed by contemporary over posthumous biography; and he conceives that the spirit of candour and moderation, in which the several memoirs were written, tended to rescue this species of writing from much of the obloquy under which it had previously laboured.

The same spirit has directed the formation of the present volume; and the editor hopes it will be found that the various WRITERS of the following pages have fully availed themselves of the advantages resulting from living observation, uninfluenced by the prejudices which too frequently disfigure the opinions of contemporaries.

The memoirs in the present, as in the former, volume, have been communicated by the persons whose initials or assumed signatures are affixed to them. These persons in general have an immediate knowledge of the individuals respecting whom they write, and are able to bestow on their respective articles a due degree of authenticity and copiousness. It results, however, as a consequence of this necessary arrangement, that the work contains much variation of style, and considerable inequality of literary merit. Thus, while *some* articles only recommend themselves as containing a simple statement of facts, *others*, communicated by gentlemen of distinguished literary attainments, abound in moral and critical observations, and combine, with UNQUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY, the graces of elegant composition.

It is presumed that no sentiment has place in this volume which can give a moment's pain to any of the personages whose memoirs are inserted. Corrections of any such passages, should they unfortunately exist, and valuable and authentic communications or additions to any of the articles, will henceforward be affixed to each subsequent volume in the form of an Appendix.

London, October, 1799.

CON-

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1799-1800.

EARL ST. VINCENT

VINCENTI CORONA.

UPON that column which a grateful country meditates to erect in commemoration of naval victories, glorious beyond example, and important beyond calculation, the chisel of the artist will not inscribe a name more deservedly esteemed and honoured than that of Jervis, nor will the pen of the historian record a victory more glorious than that whence this brave commander derives his title.

While sculpture and history thus perpetuate the achievement, curiosity, landably inquisitive, eagerly enquires after memoirs of the individual who performed it; and the writer of the biographic sketch, occasionally quitting the anecdote which gratifies curiosity, rises into the consequence of the historian, and records a brilliant event in the annals of his country.

Earl St. Vincent, although sixty-eight years of age, fifty-eight of which have been spent in active and laborious service, still retains

“A sparkling eye beneath a veteran brow.”

1799-1800.

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He does, indeed, possess all the fire and energy of youth, tempered with the maturer experience and deliberative wisdom of age. His Lordship is descended from an ancient and respectable family in Staffordshire, and is the second and youngest son of Swynfen Jervis, Esq. who was a barrister-at-law, counsel to the Admiralty, and auditor of Greenwich Hospital: his mother was the sister of Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

At the early age of ten years his Lordship quitted Burton grammar-school,* where he imbibed the rudiments of his education, and entered into the navy, a service in which he was probably induced to embark from his father's situation in the Admiralty.

The foundation of those principles of naval discipline and superior seamanship, which his Lordship has upon all occasions so conspicuously and effectually displayed, was first laid under that distinguished officer Lord Hawke, to whose principles the British navy is in a considerable degree indebted for the fame it has acquired.

The probationary interval of servitude, passed in the capacity of midshipman, affords little scope for general observation or public notice; it is enough that, in this capacity, the more private but not less meritorious duties are performed under the eye and approbation of the superior officers; and it is allowed by all who knew his Lordship in that subor-

* Where Mr. Meux, the brewer, was one of his Lordship's contemporaries.

dinate capacity, that he was therein distinguished for that prompt obedience to command which constitutes, in his opinion, and justly, the life and soul of naval discipline.

Soon after the peace of 1748, his Lordship was sent to France, to acquire those accomplishments which are requisite in an extensive intercourse with the world, and to perfect himself in the French language, which may justly be considered as an indispensable requisite in the education of a naval officer.

The dates of his Lordship's commission as a lieutenant, and of master and commander, together with the services he performed, are not here detailed, because the splendour of his later achievements is so conspicuous as to render these dry notices (necessary, perhaps, in other lives) more easily to be dispensed with in his character. These, therefore, we shall pass over, observing only that, in the year 1760, his Lordship was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and served some time upon the West-India station.

In the memorable engagement between the French and British fleets, on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, his Lordship commanded the Foudroyant, which was the next ship to the Victory, and as closely engaged and as much disabled as any ship in the fleet. Indeed it is impossible to convey a better idea of his Lordship's character and opinion, relative to that engagement, than by the following extracts from the clear, consistent, and pointed testimony which he gave upon the trial of Admiral Keppel.

Upon the following questions being put by the Admiral,

Q. Your station being nearest me, during the pursuit of the enemy and after the action, which gave you an opportunity of observing my conduct, and of seeing objects nearly in the same point of view with myself, I desire you will state to the court any instance, if you saw or knew of any such, in which I negligently performed my duty on the 27th or 28th of July?

A. With great respect to you, Sir, and deference to the court, I hope I shall be indulged with having that question put by the court.

The Judge-Advocate, *mutatis mutandis*, then put the question.

A. I feel myself bound to answer that question. I believe it to be consonant to the general practice of sea courts-martial. I cannot boast of a long acquaintance with Admiral Keppel; I never had the honour of serving under him before; but I am happy in this opportunity to declare to this court, and to the whole world, that, during the whole time that the English fleet was in sight of the French fleet, he displayed the *greatest naval skill and ability, and the boldest enterprise, upon the 27th of July; which, with the promptitude of Sir Robert Harland, will be subjects of my admiration and imitation as long as I live.*

From the evidence given upon this trial it appears, that the Foudroyant, which had got into her station about three, and never left it till four the next morning, was very closely engaged, and in a most disabled state.

state. Her main-mast had received a shot very near through the head, and lodged in the cheek, which passed through the heart of the mast; and several other shot in different places; her fore-mast was also severely wounded in many places, and a large excavation had been made in her bowsprit, near the centre; the fore-topmast was so disabled, that it was obliged to be reefed, and the mizen-mast was totally disabled; every rope of her running-rigging was cut, and her shrouds were demolished; no braces or bowlines were left, and scarcely any halyards; the fore-stay, spring-stay, topsail-ties, and the foot-rope of the fore-topsail were all shot away; and her sails were very much shattered.

In this crippled state, the Foudroyant was not in a condition to chace, but kept her station close to the Victory, and as far to windward as possible. "*I was covetous of wind,*" said this brave officer, "*because, disabled as I then was, I conceived that the advantage of the wind only could carry me again into action.*"

Being asked some questions relative to the position of the vice-admiral and his divison, his Lordship pointedly replied, "*that he was not a competent judge of that part of the fleet; he was very attentive to the admiral.*"

Nor was the *special pleading*, attempted to be introduced relative to variance between his evidence and the log-book, capable of affecting him. His Lordship declared, that he always gave his testimony from his own actual observation; nor would he, in any case, be compelled to swear to what was set

down in the log-book, but only from what he himself saw or knew.

Throughout the whole of this examination, his Lordship's presence of mind, readiness, point in answering, and unshaken firmness, have demonstrated that his intellectual faculties are by no means inferior to his successful intrepidity.

In the month of April, 1782, Admiral Barrington sailed for the Bay of Biscay with twelve sail of the line; and, when near Ushant, the French fleet was descried far a-head, on which the signal was made for a general chase, and about three o'clock the enemy became visible to the whole fleet, but the Admiral's ship, the *Britannia*, was left very far a-stern by many of the prime-sailing ships, amongst which, the *Foudroyant*, Captain Jervis, so far outstripped the rest, that when night came on, with hazy weather, he soon lost them entirely, but still kept a full view of the enemy, whom he pursued with unremitting vigour. The chased fleet consisted of eighteen sail, laden with provision and ammunition, and contained a considerable number of troops for the service of the French fleet and forces in the East-Indies, the former convoy destined for the same quarter having been taken by Admiral Kempenfelt in the preceding winter. The present fleet had sailed from Brest only the day before, and were under the protection of the *Protecteur* and *Pégase*, of 74 guns each, *l'Actionnaire*, of 64 guns, armed *en flute*, and a frigate. The *Foudroyant* gained so fast upon the chase, that it was evident they could not escape without

without an engagement; the convoy was therefore dispersed by signal; and the two French seventy-fours having consulted together, it was determined, that, as the *Protecteur* had a large quantity of money on board, she should make the best of her way; and that, if fighting was inevitable, the *Pégase* should abide the consequence. A little before one A. M. the *Foudroyant* came up, and closely engaged the *Pégase*, commanded by the Chevalier de Sillans. This action, which, to use the words of Admiral Barrington, then commander in chief, was one of the most brilliant that occurred during the American war, was extremely fierce while it lasted; but within less than an hour from its commencement, his Lordship laid the French ship aboard on the larboard quarter, and she was compelled to strike. Nothing could afford a more convincing instance of the decided superiority of seamanship and discipline on the one side, and of the great effects which these qualifications produced on the other, than the circumstances of this gallant action. On board the *Pégase*, 80 were killed and wounded; her hull, masts, and yards were materially injured; and the damage she sustained was beyond any thing that could have been supposed, considering the short time she was engaged; while the *Foudroyant* sustained but little injury; not one of the crew was killed, and the gallant commander himself was more severely wounded than any of his men.* At this time the sea

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was

* His Lordship was wounded by a splinter, which struck him on the temple, the effects of which have never been removed, as his

was so rough, that it was with great difficulty his Lordship, with the loss of two boats, could put an officer and eighty men on board the prize. Soon after this was effected, the *Foudroyant* and *Pégase* lost sight of each other; but the *Queen* fortunately coming up, took possession of her. In consequence of this gallant action, Captain Jervis was honoured with the insignia of Knight of the Bath; and about this period married his first cousin, Miss Parker, daughter of Sir Thomas Parker.

In the year 1787, his Lordship was promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue, and, in the year 1790, to that of Rear-Admiral of the White. His political sentiments were avowedly in favour of the Whig party, who opposed the administration of Mr. Pitt; and, in his capacity of senator, he constantly supported that opposition with his vote.— Upon the commencement of the late war, however, he considered himself as bound in honour to make a tender of his services; which, to the honour of the administration, were immediately accepted, and he was appointed to command the squadron destined to co-operate with Sir Charles Grey in the reduction of the French West-India islands.† In this toilsome service, with the most formidable difficulties to

his eyes have ever since been affected. The engagement between the *Foudroyant* and the *Pégase* has been admirably painted by Serres, who has devoted two pictures to the subject, which are in the possession of the Marquis of Lansdown.

† About ten thousand men originally destined for this service were drafted off, and employed in an expedition to the coast of France,

encounter,

encounter, the spirit and perseverance of these brave commanders shone pre-eminently conspicuous. The first achievement of their combined valour and discretion, was the conquest of the whole island of Martinique which, with the exception of Fort Bourbon and Fort Royal, surrendered to the British forces on the 16th of March, 1794. The forts and garrison were shortly after subdued, and the conquest of the island rendered complete and secure. The battle which preceded this victory was hardly fought on both sides; and Sir Charles Grey thus handsomely bears testimony to the gallantry of the enemy: "The gallant defence," said Sir Charles, "made by General *Rochambeau* and his garrison, was strongly manifested on entering Fort Bourbon, as there was scarcely an inch of ground untouched by our shot and shells; and it is but justice to say, that it did them the highest honour."

The remainder of the French West-India islands soon after fell into the possession of the British, but, in consequence of the sickness of the troops, and a want of sufficient reinforcement, these conquests could not be retained.

Earl St. Vincent returned home from this expedition with his health considerably injured, from the effects of the yellow fever; but, though his body was visibly impaired, his strong and ardent mind could not long endure inaction; and after the short interval of four months' repose, he was dispatched to succeed Admiral Hotham in the command of the squadron in the Mediterranean. He soon blocked up the
Spanish

Spanish fleet, and shortly after bombarded Cadiz ; to which, according to the accounts of the Paris papers, whose authority upon this occasion need not be suspected, he did considerable damage. Indeed, the services he performed upon this station, in addition to his former achievements, recommended him so conspicuously and honourably to his Sovereign, that it was in contemplation to raise him to the dignity of the peerage, even before his character had acquired its highest renown, by the memorable defeat of the Spanish squadron ; which was announced while his patent of peerage was actually in preparation.

Justly to appreciate the value of this distinguished victory, it is necessary to recur to the situation of the empire at that epoch of the war.

About this period, the conspiracy, which had been long forming in Ireland, began to wear the more open character of bold and avowed rebellion. The conspirators relied upon the protection of France. This could only be afforded by the concentration of such naval force as would have been produced by the junction of the navies of Holland and Spain to that of France, as a measure absolutely resolved on, and which it seemed difficult at that period to prevent. A general gloom pervaded the country ; and never, perhaps, was there a period which required greater efforts to revive the drooping spirits of Englishmen than the epoch of this glorious victory.

Invasion threatened us in every quarter ; and the Irish conspiracy had infected the British fleet, which was then in possession of the mutineers. To blockade
the

the ships of the enemy in their own ports, and thus to prevent the meditated junction, was the only mode of averting the impending blow. To have engaged a force so numerous as the combined fleets, would have been most hazardous; and with such an inferior squadron to prevent the junction, seemed to be impossible. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the mighty mind of Sir John Jervis, upon viewing the fleet of the enemy, instantly conceived that bold project, which terminated so gloriously for himself, and so advantageously for his country.

The Spanish admiral, trusting to his known superiority of numbers, watched a favourable opportunity, and put to sea. The moment the British admiral was apprised of the course of the Spanish fleet, he called all his captains on board, explained to them in person his plan of attack, and gave them such complete orders, that he had no occasion, during the whole of the action, to make above three or four signals, a circumstance which contributed considerably to perplex the enemy.

The Spanish fleet, commanded by Don Juan de Cordova, consisted of TWENTY-SEVEN sail of the line, one of which was a four-decker, and mounted one hundred and thirty-six guns; six were three-deckers, of one hundred and twelve guns each; two of eighty-four, and eighteen of seventy-four. The British squadron amounted only to FIFTEEN SAIL OF THE LINE, FOUR FRIGATES, A SLOOP OF WAR, AND A CUTTER; of these, six were three-deckers, eight were of seventy-four guns, and one of sixty-four. The

Spanish

Spanish admiral had sailed from Cordova on the 4th of February, and passed Gibraltar on the following day, having left in that bay three line-of-battle ships. On the night of the 11th, the Spanish fleet was first discovered by the Minerva frigate; and, in the night of the 13th, the two fleets approached so near to each other, that their signal-guns could be heard: at day-break on the 14th, they were in complete order, and by six A.M. were prepared for battle. About ten, the Spanish fleet was visible to all the British squadron, and some of the ships appeared to be separated from the main-body: the British admiral instantly conceived the design of cutting off these before they could rejoin, or the main-body arrive to their assistance; but observing the position of the main-body, he formed his fleet into a line of battle a-head and a-stern, and, about half-past eleven, signified his intention to push through the enemy's line. The signal was accordingly hoisted out for action. His Lordship accomplished his design, and a part of the fleet was most effectually separated from the main-body, which, in consequence of this separation, was reduced to eighteen sail of the line. Towards this main-body, which was then to windward, the British admiral directed his attention; and, a little after twelve, he again made the signal for passing through the enemy's line, which the Spanish commander attempted to counteract, by wearing round the rear of the British line, to join his ships to leeward; but this effort was counteracted by Commodore Nelson, who had no sooner passed the rear of the enemy, than he
ordered

ordered his ship, the *Captain*, to wear and stand on the other tack. In executing this bold manœuvre, Commodore Nelson found himself alongside the *Santissima Trinidad*, of 136. Although the *Santissima Trinidad* was assisted by her two seconds, three-deckers, this gallant commander, with a ship of only 74 guns, did not shrink from the contest. The *Culloden* and *Blenheim* had, however, by this time pressed to his assistance, and the approach of Admiral Parker, with four other ships of the line, prevented the Spanish admiral from re-joining his ships to leeward. The advantage at this period being completely on the side of the British, the Spanish ships were crowding off; but, in the confusion of their retreat, some of them had doubled on each other. Admiral Jervis then bore up with the seven ships in his division, with an intent to rake the enemy in succession; but not being able to effect this, he ordered the leading ship, the *Excellent*, to bear up, while he, in the *Victory*, passed to leeward of the Spanish ships in the rear. Captain Collingwood, who commanded the *Excellent*, accordingly passed between the two rearmost ships of the enemy, and poured such an effectual broadside into the *San Ysidro*, that she was obliged to submit. After this, the *Excellent* pushed on to the relief of the *Captain*, which was engaged with a three-decker; but before she could arrive, this ship got foul of her second, a two-decker, in which state they were both boarded by the *Captain*, and the smaller, the *San Nicolas*, was speedily taken possession of; the three-decker, the

San

San Josef, followed the fate of her second, and became a prize to Commodore Nelson, who headed the party which boarded her from the *San Nicolas*. In the mean time, Admiral Jervis, who had ordered the *Victory* to be laid along side the *Salvador del Mundo*, the rearmost ship of the enemy, poured in such an effectual discharge, that she thought proper to strike. Thus four of the enemy's ships were in possession of the British; whose loss, in killed and wounded, was exactly three hundred men: the loss of the Spaniards, in the four captured ships alone, amounted to six hundred and ninety-three men; from which proportion it may be fairly inferred, that the remainder of their flying fleet must have suffered very considerably. The remainder of the Spanish ships then took shelter in Cadiz, and Sir John Jervis soon after entered the Tagus with his fleet and prizes, amidst the cheering shouts of the populace, and landed there three thousand two hundred prisoners from the four prizes. Thus gallantly was the junction of this great fleet with those of France and Holland prevented. Had Sir John Jervis failed in his spirited attack, the combined French, Dutch, and Spanish fleets would have amounted to no less than eighty sail of the line! a circumstance which would, in all likelihood, have greatly aided the daring project of the French in their descent upon Ireland.

The gloom which overspread the country was dispelled by the news of this victory, which was received with that exultation of gratitude towards their brave defenders which characterizes Englishmen. Ad-
miral

miral Jervis received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and was honoured with the title of Earl St. Vincent, from the scene of this brilliant action, and Baron Jervis of Meaford, from the place of his birth; he also received a gold medal and a pension of three thousand pounds per annum. When we contemplate all the circumstances connected with this memorable victory, we are filled with admiration. To conquer on the ocean has long been the glorious characteristic of Britons; but it was reserved till the date of this action, for history to trace in characters bold and impressive as the achievement recorded, that a British admiral, with a squadron of *fifteen ships* of the line, engaged and vanquished the fleet of Spain, consisting of *twenty-seven*, one of which was a *four-decker*, and mounted one hundred and thirty-six guns!

Upon the motion in the House of Lords relative to the vote of thanks upon his Lordship's victory, the late Duke of Bedford proposed, as this victory differed from every other, to introduce an amendment, expressive of its characteristic distinction. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence supported this amendment; and, in his speech upon this occasion, gave several instances, from his own knowledge, of the excellent state and discipline in which the men and ships under his Lordship's command were invariably kept; "and," continued his Royal Highness, "without giving the slightest offence to any other, I do not hesitate to declare Sir John Jervis the very best officer in his Majesty's service." His Royal Highness had sailed some time under his Lordship's

ship's command; and his conduct as a naval officer is modelled on his Lordship's principles.

Earl St. Vincent was twice chosen a representative of the borough of Great Yarmouth; and, upon the recommendation of his intimate friend and patron, the Marquis of Lansdown, was introduced to the Whig party in that town. At a later election, he declined Yarmouth in favour of his colleague, Mr. Beaufoy, and was returned, with Sir Francis Baring for High Wycombe. Upon the death of Lord Charles Townshend, his Lordship was again put in nomination for Yarmouth; but, although this friendly effort did not succeed, it ought in justice to be observed, in testimony of his Lordship's distinguished merit on the one side, and the grateful sense of it entertained by the constituents of this borough on the other, that, in his absence, without any solicitation and even without his knowledge, and without expence, he was put in nomination. Indeed, so firm was his Lordship's attachment to this ancient borough, that he wished to have taken the title of Earl of Yarmouth; but, upon being informed that his title was that of St. Vincent, his Lordship observed that he was very well satisfied, as "that title belonged to every officer and seaman of his fleet."

On the 18th of August, 1799, his Lordship landed in the dock-yard, at Portsmouth, and went to the house of Sir Peter Parker, where he was waited upon by the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, with the following address:

"My

" My Lord,

Impressed with the most grateful sense of the high services rendered to our country, by the glorious victory obtained by the fleet under your command, over that of the enemy, on the 14th of February, 1797, the mayor and aldermen of this borough elected and appointed your Lordship a burgess of this ancient corporation. They now take the earliest opportunity to shew their high esteem and regard, by congratulating you on your safe return; sincerely wishing your Lordship may be speedily restored to health, that your country may again be benefited by fresh victories obtained by the fleet under your command."

To which his Lordship returned the following answer:

" I am very happy on this occasion to repeat the sense I entertain of the great honour done me by the mayor and aldermen of the borough of Portsmouth, in electing and appointing me a burgess of their ancient corporation, and in assuring them that I shall be ready on all occasions to promote the interest of the borough.

" I return you many thanks for your congratulations on my return to England, and kind wishes for the speedy recovery of my health, which *if it please God to restore, the remainder of my life will be devoted to the service of my king and country.*"

Lord St. Vincent, as the close and old friend of the Marquis of Lansdown, uniformly sided with the old opposition; and though he would not withhold his services in the season when they were so greatly

1799-1800.

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needed,

needed, he yet decidedly gave his judgment against the justice or the policy of the late disastrous and expensive war. When Lord Spencer withdrew from the Admiralty board, Earl St. Vincent was appointed to that high and important station, in which he has given general satisfaction to the nation, as well as to the navy.

Notwithstanding his Lordship's health is far from being in that good state, which his grateful country must ever wish him to enjoy, he still pursues the arduous and important duties of his office with a perseverance and zeal truly astonishing.

During the summer of the year 1802, he undertook a most extensive tour, and personally inspected the principal dock yards in the kingdom. He investigated their management and economy with a very scrutinizing eye, remedied many evils, and exterminated many abuses. This venerable First Lord of the Admiralty is still constantly and laboriously engaged in forming and digesting a plan for the relief of the distressed sailor, by an alteration in some of the existing regulations relative to the chest at Chatham.

When the veteran warrior thus adds the mild lustre of philanthropy to the brilliant glories of conquest, the pen is too feeble to record his merit. Yet he will never want a statue to perpetuate his honourable fame, of whom posterity must say, his valour gained the victory of ST. VINCENT, and his benevolence added to the COMFORTS of the BRITISH SAILOR.

MR.

MR. SHERIDAN.

IT has been justly remarked by Dr. Johnson, that "many things which are false are transmitted from book to book, and gain credit in the world." This observation may be applied to the different memoirs of Mr. Sheridan which have been published. The grossest errors acquire a sort of currency among the majority of readers, who have not had an opportunity, or perhaps an inclination, to investigate the accuracy of circumstances, that seem of trifling moment. They are considered as unquestionable facts by succeeding biographers, and are given to the public with embellishments which strengthen deception, and frequently mislead even the friends of the person whose memoir is the subject of perusal. But it is the duty of a biographer, either to be accurate in the most trivial circumstances which he has occasion to relate, or to omit them altogether.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan is the third son of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, celebrated as an actor, eminent for his skill as a lecturer in elocution, and entitled to the gratitude of the public for his judicious and indefatigable exertions to improve the system of education in this country. His works, with the exception of some plays which he altered, and the Life of Dean Swift, which he prepared for publication, in general relate to the elements of language,

and the instruction of youth.* His father, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Sheridan, was a distinguished divine, the ablest school-master of his time, and the intimate friend of the Dean of St. Patrick. Mr. Thomas Sheridan died at Margate on the 14th of August, 1788.

Mrs. Frances Sheridan, the mother of Richard Brinsley, a lady no less respected for her domestic virtues than admired for her literary attainments, was the author of *Sidney Biddulph*, a novel, which has the merit of combining the purest morality with the most powerful interest. She also wrote *Nourjahad*, an oriental tale, and the comedies of the *Discovery*, the *Dupe*, and a *Trip to Bath*. She died at Blois in France, the 17th of September, 1766.†

* List of Mr. Sheridan's principal works:—*The Loyal Lover*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Coriolanus*, all altered and acted; *British Education*; *A Discourse delivered in the theatre at Oxford*, and in the senate-house at Cambridge; *A Dissertation on the Causes of the Difficulties which occur in learning the English Tongue*; *A Course of Lectures on Elocution*; *A Plan of Education for the young Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain*; *Lectures on the Art of Reading*, in two parts; *A General Dictionary of the English Language*; *The Works of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Swift*, Dean of St Patrick's, arranged, revised, and corrected; *Elements of English*. To the second edition of his *Dictionary* in quarto there is prefixed an exceeding good and expressive likeness of the author.

† Such was the respect paid to her memory by the Bishop of Blois, that he had it intimated to her friends, notwithstanding the difference of religious persuasion, that they might take advantage of the night to deposit her remains in consecrated ground, and no interruption

The subject of this memoir was born in Dorset-street, Dublin, in the month of October, 1751.* He was placed, in his seventh year, with his elder brother, Charles-Francis, late Secretary at War, in Ireland, the correct and elegant historian of the revolution in Sweden, under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Whyte of Dublin, the friend of their father, and who has been a long time highly esteemed for his care and ability in the instruction of youth. They were the two first pupils of Mr. Whyte, who opened his academy in April 1758, and it is a circumstance not unworthy of remark, that their early years afforded no promise of the abilities which they have since displayed. Mrs. Sheridan, whose discrimination cannot be questioned, took an opportunity, on committing them to the care of Mr. Whyte, to advert to the necessity of *patience* in the arduous profession which he had embraced, and addressed him in the following language—"These boys will be your tutors in that respect. I have hitherto been their only instructor, and they have sufficiently exercised mine ;

interruption should be given to the interment—an indulgence in France, which was perhaps never before extended to any reputed heretic. Dr. Young, in his Night Thoughts, bitterly complains of the different treatment which attended his daughter's burial in the same country.

* Extract from the register of St. Mary's parish, Dublin.
 "Charles-Francis, son of Thomas and Frances Sheridan, baptized July 23d, 1750—Richard Brinsley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, baptized November 4th, 1751."

Mr. Sheridan's eldest son Thomas, died in childhood.

for two such impenetrable dunces I never met with."

Having remained nearly eighteen months with Mr. Whyte, they were sent by that gentleman, in September 1759, to Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, who then resided at Windsor. There they passed nearly a year, their education during that time being superintended by Mrs. Sheridan herself. Richard Brinsley was placed at Harrow school, after the Christmas of 1762. The observation made by his mother on the occasion, taken from one of her letters, now before the writer of this sketch, is, when connected with his subsequent pursuits, rather of a singular kind. She says—"Dick has been at Harrow school since Christmas; as he probably may fall into a *bustling life*, we have a mind to accustom him early to *shift for himself*." It has been reported, but without foundation, that he gave recitations from the English classics during his father's lectures. His father, on the contrary, never entertained an idea of employing him in that manner, as his brother Charles was very much his superior in diligence, correctness of ear, and powers of voice, and was remarkable, when only eleven years old, for his elegant and impressive delivery of several passages from Milton.

The literary advancement of Mr. Sheridan at Harrow, a seminary which has sent into the world many finished scholars, and distinguished characters, appears to have been at first retarded, either by the bluntness of his powers, or the negligence of his disposition. Dr. Sumner, who was then master of the school, had probably,

probably, from his constant attention to the boys of the higher forms, no opportunity of distinguishing the talents of his pupil; and it was reserved for Dr. Parr, who was at that time one of the sub-preceptors, to discover and call into activity the faculties of young Sheridan's mind.

Richard Brinsley was at length roused from the inactivity of which his parents had so frequently complained, and the rising spirit of emulation produced exertions, which admonition and the fear of correction had vainly endeavoured to excite. He felt, that to be distinguished, it was necessary to devote a considerable part of his time to study. His memory was found to be uncommonly retentive, and his judgment correct; and when his mind was quickened by competition, his genius gradually expanded into that happy versatility of powers which has never since deserted him. But to be admired seemed his only object, and when that end was attained, he relaxed in his application, and sunk into his former indolence. His last year at Harrow was spent more in reflecting on the acquirements he had made, and the eventful scenes of a busy life, which were opening to his view, than in enlarging the circle of his classical and literary attainments.

His father was so highly pleased with the progress which his son had made in his studies, that he deemed it unnecessary to send him to the university; and he was, a short time after his departure from Harrow, entered as a student in the Middle Temple. From that period to his marriage with Miss Linley, the life

of Mr. Sheridan seems involved in obscurity, which it is difficult to clear up in a satisfactory way. He certainly was not, and this is mentioned on the authority of persons who were then on terms of intimacy with him, either the votary of fashion or of dissipation.

Mr. Sheridan, when about the age of twenty, was peculiarly fond of the society of men of taste and learning, and soon gave proofs that he was inferior to none of his companions in wit and argument. The sum allowed for his support must have been very small, as his father's pension from the crown* was barely sufficient to provide for the expences incurred by a genteel, but moderate plan of living; nor were the emoluments arising from his lectures on elocution, and his performances as an actor, very considerable. In this situation, Mr. Sheridan had recourse to his literary talents for pecuniary supplies. He had read, immediately after his leaving Harrow, with minute attention, the works of our most eminent writers, and applied himself to the study of English composition in its various branches. Nothing, however, but necessity, could have induced him to exert his powers, as Dryden and many others had done before him, for immediate profit; for, exclusively of an unaccountable propensity to indolence, which formed the distinguishing characteristic of his youthful days,

* A pension of 200*l.* per annum was granted by his Majesty, in 1762, to Mr. T. Sheridan, without solicitation, as an encouragement to complete his English Dictionary, and as a reward for his literary labours.

and from which he cannot now be stimulated but by some great and sudden impulse, he has ever considered a mercenary writer, who is occasionally compelled to sacrifice his own conviction to the instructions of his employer, as a character truly wretched and contemptible. That he maintained his independence of sentiment there is no ground to disbelieve; but he had the prudence to conceal, from most of his acquaintances, whatever share he had in the fleeting productions of the day. He also directed his attention to the drama, as a subject in every respect calculated to reward his labours with fame and emolument; but disgusted with some sketches of comic character which he drew, he actually destroyed them, and, in a moment of despair, renounced every hope of excellence as a dramatic writer. A poetical translation of *Aristænetus* has been attributed to him, the share, however, which he had in that version was very limited.

But the views which he may have then entertained, either with respect to the cultivation and exertion of his genius in literary pursuits, or to the study of the profession to which he had been destined by his father, were all lost in a passion that mastered his reason. He at once saw and loved Miss Linley, and from his first introduction to her indulged the hope of triumphing over every obstacle that opposed his happiness. That lady was no less admirable for the elegant accomplishments of her sex and the affecting simplicity of her conversation, than for the charms of her person and the fascinating powers of her voice.

She

She was the principal performer in the oratorios at Drury-lane theatre; and the science, taste, but above all, the enthusiastic feeling which she displayed in the execution of the airs assigned to her, are still remembered with delight. The strains which she poured forth were the happiest combinations of nature and art; but nature predominated over art. Her accents were so melodious and captivating, and their passage to the heart so sudden and irresistible, that "list'ning Envy would have dropped her snakes, and stern-ey'd Fury's self would have melted" at the sounds.

Mr. Sheridan became her avowed suitor, and every idea of interest and ambition was absorbed in his passion. Her father, Mr. Linley, the late ingenious composer, was not at first propitious to his passion, and he had many rivals to overcome in his attempts to gain the lady's affections. His perseverance, however, encreased with the difficulties that presented themselves, and his courage and resolution in vindicating Miss Linley's reputation from a calumnious report, which had been basely thrown out against it, obtained for him the fair prize for which he twice exposed his life.

Mr. Mathews, a gentleman then well known in the fashionable circles at Bath, had caused a paragraph to be inserted in a public paper at that place, which tended to prejudice the character of this young lady, and Mr. Sheridan immediately applied for redress to the printer, who communicated the author's name. Mr. Mathews had, in the mean time, set out
for

for London, and was closely pursued by Mr. Sheridan. They met and fought a duel with swords at a tavern* in Henrietta-street, Covent-garden. Mr. Sheridan's second on the occasion was his brother, Charles-Francis, the late Secretary at War in Ireland. Great courage and skill were displayed on both sides; but Mr. Sheridan having succeeded in disarming his adversary, compelled him to sign a formal retraction of the paragraph which had been published.

The conqueror instantly returned to Bath; and thinking that, as the insult had been publicly given, the apology should have equal notoriety, he caused it to be published in the same paper. Mr. Mathews soon heard of this circumstance, and, irritated at his defeat, and the use which his antagonist had made of his retraction, repaired to Bath, determined to call upon Mr. Sheridan for satisfaction. A message was accordingly sent, and a meeting agreed to: Mr. Sheridan would have been justified, according to the most delicate punctilios of honour, in declining the call; but he silenced all the objections that were started by his friends, and the parties met on Kingsdown. The victory was desperately contested, and, after a discharge of pistols, they fought with swords. They were both wounded, and closing with each other, fell on the ground, where the fight was continued until they were separated. They received several wounds in this arduous struggle for life and

* The house situated at the west-end of Henrietta-street, now a china warehouse, and partly in Bedford-street.

honour,

honour, and a part of his opponent's weapon was left in Mr. Sheridan's ear.

Miss Linley did not suffer a long time to elapse before she rewarded Mr. Sheridan for the dangers he had braved in her defence, by accompanying him on a matrimonial excursion to the continent. The ceremony was again performed on their return to England, with the consent of the lady's parents.

From the period of her marriage, Mrs. Sheridan never appeared as a public performer. Her situation in the oratorios was filled by her younger sister,* Miss Mary Linley. Several lucrative proposals were, about this time, made to Mrs. Sheridan, to induce her once more to charm the public ear, but they were rejected with disdain by Mr. Sheridan. During their residence in Orchard-street they were subject to very distressing embarrassments; yet the firmness of Mr. Sheridan, in resisting every proposal of this nature, by which any loss of estimation in the eyes of the world might be incurred, remained invincible. He received a letter from the proprietors of the Pantheon, which was then about to be opened, offering Mrs. Sheridan one thousand pounds for her performance during twelve nights, and one thousand pounds more for a benefit, the profits of which they were to appropriate to their own use. The proposal of so large a sum as two thousand pounds, which might have been gained in a few weeks, was not merely declined, but rejected with indignation by Mr.

* This young lady died singing "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

Sheridan,

Sheridan, notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of his wife.

Mr. Sheridan, who was now encumbered with the cares of a family, felt the necessity of immediate exertion to provide for the pressing calls inseparable from a domestic establishment, which, if not splendid, was marked with all the appearance of genteel life.

His attempt at dramatic composition, and the moderate opinion which he entertained of his talents in that respect, have been already noticed; but his charming lines to Miss Linley, and some occasional productions, which displayed with equal happiness his talent for natural tenderness of sentiment and brilliancy of wit, had secured to him no mean reputation as a poet. Thus compelled to become a candidate for public favour, he once more resumed his courtship of the Comic Muse; and having finished his play of the *Rivals*, he presented it to the Manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, and it was represented on the 17th of January, 1775. This comedy was justly considered, by candid criticism, as a most promising essay for an author in his twenty-fifth year, but the public opinion did not exactly coincide with that of acknowledged judges of dramatic merit; and, in consequence of some slight disapprobation, it was withdrawn after the first night's performance. The partial failure of the piece has been attributed to the indifferent acting of Mr. Lee, in the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. For that gentleman, though allowed to possess considerable

siderable merit in parts of much more importance, had not sufficiently studied the whimsical humour and national manner of Irish characters. Whatever may have been the cause, Mr. Sheridan withdrew his play without any compulsion; and, having made some judicious alterations, both in the progress of the plot and in the language, it was shortly after brought forward again, and received in the most favourable manner.

The fable of this comedy possesses a sufficient degree of probability to render it interesting; the incidents succeed each other in natural progression, and the dialogue is witty, humorous, and characteristic, interspersed with pathetic appeals to the heart, but without those extraordinary effusions of excellence which, from the pen of the same writer, have since delighted the fancy and improved the understanding, on the stage and in the closet.

Had Mr. Sheridan's powers been evinced but by this comedy only, he would have been placed at no very great eminence above the common crowd of play-wrights.

His next production was the farce of *St. Patrick's Day*, or *The Scheming Lieutenant*, a piece evidently written more for the purpose of trying his ability to excite broad laughter and humorous merriment, than with a view of enlarging his reputation. It was presented by him to Mr. Clinch, as a testimony of his good opinion, for the assistance he had experienced from that gentleman's excellent performance of Sir Lucius O'Trigger, in the *Rivals*, in which he had succeeded.

succeeded Mr. Lee. The farce of St. Patrick's Day was actually written in eight-and-forty hours, and was performed for the benefit of Mr. Clinch, on the 2d of May, in the same year.

At the commencement of the ensuing season, he brought out his comic opera of the *Duenna*, a composition in every respect superior to the general class of English operas then in fashion. The plot of this pleasing piece, which deservedly retains its popularity on the stage, is simple, and incapable of producing much interest; but the elegance of the diction, the sweetness of the poetry, and the appropriate spirit infused into the characters, placed it beyond all competition with the sing-song trifles which were then in high repute. The *Duenna* surpassed even the Beggar's Opera in attraction and popularity, and was performed seventy-five nights during the season, while Gay's singular production ran only sixty-five.

Mr. Sheridan's circumstances becoming about this time more independent, and his genius having struck out a line productive of fame and profit, he began to indulge in expensive entertainments, and he found no difficulty in extending his connections in fashionable life. "The feast of reason and the "flow of soul" were seldom absent from the hospitalities of his house, and they were unquestionably very much promoted by the strength of argument and brilliancy of wit which he could call forth in the hours of instructive enquiry or sportive conviviality,

as

as well as by the charms of Mrs. Sheridan's conversation, and her fascinating powers of voice.

Mr. Garrick having resolved to retire from the management of Drury-lane-Theatre, a negociation with him for the purchase of his share of the patent was entered into by Dr. Ford, Mr. Linley, and Mr. Sheridan, who, in 1776, paid the sum of 80,000*l.* for it.

It now became his interest to apply his talents in support of the theatre in which he was so materially concerned, and he immediately brought out the *Trip to Scarborough*, altered from Vanburgh's comedy of the Relapse. It was performed on the 24th of February, 1777; and, though the dialogue was much improved, and the incidents judiciously altered, the audience did not receive it in a very favourable manner on the first night of representation, on account of the incorrectness of the performers in general. It was afterwards played to crowded houses.

His next production was the comedy of the *School for Scandal*, which has deservedly raised his fame to undisputed pre-eminence over all contemporary dramatic-writers, and conferred, in the opinion of the foreign *literati*, a lustre on the British comedy which it did not previously possess. The *School for Scandal* was performed on the 8th of May, 1777, and attracted from that late period to the conclusion of the season, the most fashionable and numerous audiences. A play of such superior merit, and written by so young an author, was rewarded with unqualified applause.

plause. The critics of that time were anxiously engaged in extolling the beauties with which it abounds, and some of them were not wanting to discover others, that either do not exist, or are still unknown to the writer himself. The tide of public favour ran with irresistible impetuosity, and dramatic excellence and the name of Sheridan became synonymous. But, although it must ever rank as a finished piece in the simplicity of plot, in the natural progression of incident, in faithful imitation of manners, in the vigorous and exact delineation of living character, and, above all, in fertility of wit and felicity of expression; it is to be lamented, that the author did not apply himself with more care to improve the heart, and stimulate the public mind to the cultivation of morality.

The fashionable taste for Scandal is indeed exposed; but it is exposed to the laughter, not to the contempt and detestation of the audience: it produces mirth, but does not excite execration. The hypocrite, who covers his abominable designs with the mask of honour and integrity, is indeed punished; but the punishment is not commensurate to the offence, and our abhorrence is weakened by the unseasonable playfulness of the poet's satire. The author is too strenuous an advocate for dissipation of manners, and the vices of libertinism are too successfully defended.

Mr. Sheridan appears, in a great measure, to have forgotten the legitimate end of dramatic composition, and not to have been sufficiently sensible, that what-

ever is intended for the amusement of society at large, should also be capable of communicating solid instruction, and producing real amendment. It has been remarked, with some degree of propriety, that the characters of Joseph and Charles have been taken from Fielding's Blifil and Tom Jones; and that the disguise assumed by Sir Oliver Surface has been borrowed from a similar incident in Mrs. Sheridan's novel.

Early in the following season, he produced the musical piece of *The Camp*, a temporary *jeu d'esprit*, which afforded much entertainment; and his *Critic*, written upon the model of the Duke of Buckingham's *Rehearsal*, came out on the 30th of October, 1767. The success of the *Critic* was complete and well deserved; and, though the subject had been very ably handled by his ingenious predecessor, he succeeded in embellishing it with so great a variety of ludicrous incidents, and introduced such extraordinary novelty of satire, as to divest it of the slightest appearance of imitation.

The lamented death of the British Roscius, in 1779, furnished Mr. Sheridan with an opportunity of exercising powers of a very different nature; and he wrote the monody to the memory of Mr. Garrick, which was recited at Drury-Lane Theatre, by Mrs. Yates, in the month of March of the same year. The sentiments are, in general, appropriate to the occasion, and the poetry possesses strength and melody, but the effect was not adequate to the expectations of the author and his friends.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the profits which he derived from his pieces, and the share he had in the theatre, which was very considerable, as he had obtained Mr. Lacy's interest in the patent, a property equally valuable with that of Mr. Garrick, and of course worth, on the lowest calculation, thirty thousand pounds, his pecuniary embarrassments had considerably increased. His domestic establishment was not only very expensive, but conducted without any kind of economy. The persuasions of Mr. Fox, whose friendship he had carefully cultivated, operated, with a firm conviction of his own abilities, in determining him to procure a seat in the House of Commons. For some time before he had endeavoured to qualify himself for public speaking, by declaiming at the private meetings of several of his most intimate acquaintances; and it was customary with him, like the logical disputants of antiquity, to start a subject of discussion, and *advocate* either side of the question, for the purpose of exercising his ingenuity in argument.

Mr. Sheridan was about this time honoured with the notice of a noble Duke, since high in office, and who then possessed great influence in opposition; and an application was made through the medium of a common friend, to obtain his Grace's nomination of Mr. Sheridan for one of his boroughs. The application, however, proved fruitless, as the noble Duke had already completed his list, or placed little reliance on the parliamentary powers of his dramatic acquaintance.

Mr. Sheridan was not discouraged by the disap-

pointment, and a general election taking place in 1780, he resolved to canvass for himself, and chose the town of Stafford for the scene of his first political operations. In the adoption of that measure, he appears to have been actuated by several important considerations. The borough of Stafford was not devoted to the interest of any particular patron; it was free from all suspicion of ministerial influence, and the arts of corruption had ever tried, without effect, to undermine the independence of the electors. At least, no legal proof has been yet brought forward to establish any instance of corruption among them.

All these circumstances, strengthened by a pressing invitation, and a promise of the most zealous support from a principal gentleman of the place, induced Mr. Sheridan to propose himself as a candidate to represent the borough of Stafford in the next parliament. He accordingly proceeded to the spot, and was perfectly satisfied with the pleasing prospect of success that opened to his ambition. But although he experienced uncommon disinterestedness, and great liberality of conduct in the people of Stafford, a certain degree of expence, which has for a long time blended itself with the purest proceedings of the elective system in this country, was found unavoidable, and his resources were not at that time in the most flourishing state. He was soon convinced, that the moderate sum of one thousand pounds was a *sine qua non*, which alone could bring the negotiation between the young champion of liberty and the independent

dependent electors to a successful conclusion. The money was at length raised, and one of the gentlemen, who contributed to the supply, has been since liberally rewarded with an opera share.

Mr. Sheridan was in consequence returned for Stafford, and, from the moment of his introduction into the House of Commons, he became a firm supporter of all the measures of Opposition. Though he contented himself at the commencement of the session with giving a silent vote against the minister, he was indefatigable without doors in seconding the views of his party, and in exciting the clamour of public indignation against the measures of government. He constantly attended popular meetings and political clubs, and his pen was employed with success in several periodical publications. He had a considerable share in the *Englishman*, a paper which was conducted with great acrimony against the administration of Lord North; and when the Rockingham party came into power, in 1782, his exertions were rewarded with the appointment of Under Secretary to Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham, and the unexpected elevation of the Earl of Shelburne to the important office of First Lord of the Treasury, completely defeated the views of Opposition, and the ever-memorable coalition having been formed, Mr. Sheridan was once more called upon to carry on literary hostilities against the new administration. The periodical work of the *Jesuit* soon appeared, and se-

veral very distinguished members of the party are confidently stated to have contributed to that production.

The legal proceedings were, however, carried on but slowly, and the coalition having gained a decisive victory over the new-fangled administration, formed by the Shelburne party, Mr. Sheridan was once more brought into place, and appointed, in April 1783, Secretary of the Treasury. It was extremely natural to suppose, that the Jesuit would not be attacked by those to whose cause it had been devoted; but the spirit of prosecution, though allowed to slumber for a short interval, broke out with redoubled vigour, when his Grace of Portland was succeeded, as First Lord of the Treasury, by Mr. Pitt, and an entire change took place in men and measures.

The Attorney-General was obliged, *ex officio*, to continue the prosecution, the ground-work of which still existed, and Mr. Wilkie, who had the magnanimity to conceal the names of the gentlemen by whom he had been employed, was sentenced to an imprisonment of twelve months. The system of party-politics evinced in this instance, as it has in almost every other case, selfishness and ingratitude. The man who possessed the courage to expose his own person to punishment, and his circumstances to ruin, in order to screen those by whom he had been engaged in his professional pursuits, for the purpose of promoting their favorite end, was treated with neglect, and it will, with difficulty, be credited, that his expences have not yet been paid.

Mr.

Mr. Sheridan appears to have been a figure introduced into the political picture, more for the purpose of completing the group in the back ground, than of standing forward as a principal character. But the irresistible impulse of genius gave a sudden expansion to his powers, extricated him from the inferior estimation in which he was held, and placed him, if not in an equal rank with Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke, at least in the very next to it.

His defence of Mr. Fox's celebrated East-India Bill was distinguished for logical precision; and though he had not, on previous occasions, delivered his sentiments with extraordinary ability, his speech on that interesting subject was so masterly, as to induce the public opinion to select him from the second class of parliamentary speakers. In 1785, his powers began to expand in proportion to the confidence which he acquired in debate, and his observations on Mr. Pitt's Perfumery Bill were justly admired for splendid effusions of wit and great force of argument. But the part he took in the consideration of the Irish Propositions, which were brought forward during the same year, was peculiarly striking, and raised his reputation as an orator to a very superior degree. In calling the attention of the house to the fourth proposition, he displayed a general knowledge of the interests of both kingdoms, and a depth of investigation which the most sanguine expectations of his friends could not have anticipated; and from that moment he was viewed as a formidable opponent by the late minister, and looked up to with admiration,

tion, as a principal leader of the party to which he belonged.

Mr. Sheridan had many difficulties to encounter in his parliamentary life. His father was an actor, he had himself largely contributed to the entertainment of the public, and was the manager of a theatre. The prejudices of mankind, however ridiculous, are too often victorious over the claims of genuine merit, and would have, perhaps, prevailed in intimidating any other person than the man against whom they were, in this instance, directed. Fully convinced of his decided superiority over birth and fortune, he proceeded, regardless of personal reflections; and if his opponents succeeded in irritating him by the asperity of their allusions, he met them with manly resolution, chastised them with the lash of legitimate satire, or held them up to universal ridicule in bursts of extemporaneous wit, that have never been equalled in the British senate. The conduct of the late Premier, in his unguarded allusions to Mr. Sheridan's dramatic pursuits, was severely punished; and that dignified manner which should mark the behaviour of the first statesman in Europe, sitting in the first assembly in Europe, was for a moment transformed into the quarrelsome petulance of the *angry boy*. The correction was productive of salutary effects, and Mr. Sheridan has completely triumphed over the splenetic and paltry efforts of his opponents to check his talents, and degrade his public character.

He was rapidly approaching to perfection as a public speaker, when the impeachment of Mr. Hastings

tings supplied him with an opportunity of displaying powers which were then unrivalled. His speech delivered in the House of Commons, in April 1787, on the eighth article, as stated in the order laid down by Mr. Burke, relative to "money corruptly and illegally taken," was allowed to equal the most argumentative and impassioned orations that had ever been addressed to the judgment and feelings of the British Parliament. He fixed the uninterrupted attention of the house for upwards of five hours, confirmed the minds of those who wavered, and produced co-operation from a quarter, which, it was supposed, would have been hostile to any further proceeding.

Mr. Sheridan seems, at this period, to have been convinced of the necessity of indefatigable application and persevering industry, to support the splendid fame he had acquired, and accordingly prepared himself, with unremitting assiduity, to perform his official duties as one of the managers of the prosecution, instituted by the representatives of the people against Mr. Hastings, and carried on before the supreme tribunal of the nation.

In the long examination of Mr. Middleton, he gave decided proofs of a strong and discriminating mind; but when, in June 1788, he summed up the evidence on the charge, respecting the confinement and imprisonment of the Princesses of Oude, and the seizure of their treasures, his superiority over his colleagues was established by universal consent. His mind, indeed, appears to have been elevated by the importance of the subject; and he conceived its various

rious relations with a perspicuity that was embellished by the noblest effusions of eloquence—

“Animo vidit; ingenio complexus est;

Eloquentiâ ornavit.”

But however admirable his speech may be now considered, as a composition, there were, at that time, several circumstances of magnitude and singularity, that conspired to give it a celebrity which posterity will scarcely admit it to possess. To form a just opinion of this memorable oration, which occupied the attention of the court, and excited the admiration of the public, for five hours, it would be necessary to have heard Mr. Sheridan himself; and, to those who have not witnessed the correctness, strength, and animation of his elocution, it will be sufficient to repeat what was said by *Æschines* to the people of Rhodes, in praise of the oration which had caused his banishment—“What applauses would you not have conferred, had you heard *Demosthenes* deliver it himself?”

It is difficult to select any part of it as the subject of peculiar encomium. The address with which he arranged his materials; the art and force with which he anticipated objections; the unexampled ingenuity with which he commented on the evidence, and the natural boldness of his imagery, are equally entitled to panegyric. He combined the three kinds of eloquence. He was clear and unadorned—diffuse and pathetic—animated and vehement. There was nothing superfluous—no affected turn—no glittering point—no false sublimity. Compassion and indignation

nation were alternately excited, and the wonderful effects related of the eloquence of Greece and Rome were almost revived.

Soon after this great æra in the public life of Mr. Sheridan, the melancholy indisposition of his Majesty, which plunged the country into a state of the deepest distress, led to the discussion of a question, exceeding in political importance every other national occurrence from the revolution of 1688 down to that time. The Ministry and Opposition essentially differed with respect to the means to be adopted for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, and Mr. Sheridan took a leading part in the attempts which were made to declare the Prince of Wales regent, without such restrictions as Parliament should think fit to impose. The favour in which he was held at Carleton-house was certainly superior to that enjoyed by the most distinguished members of the party, and his conduct occasioned suspicions that have never been completely removed. His Royal Highness was very much in the habit of consulting Mr. Sheridan, and his answer to Mr. Pitt's letter, with respect to the restrictions on the regency, which was allowed to be dignified, cautious, and temperate, has been principally ascribed to the prudent counsels of this gentleman.

Mr. Sheridan's zealous interference in support of his patron is, perhaps, the only instance in which he can be charged with political inconsistency. The spirit of party, and the strong prejudices of the moment, are now consigned to oblivion; and, it may be fairly

fairly asked, whether he, or any other declared advocate of the rights of the people, acted consistently in opposing the following resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Pitt, and passed by the British Parliament :

“ Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the right and duty of the Lord's spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, now assembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely representing all the estates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, arising from his Majesty's indisposition, in such a manner as the exigency of the case may appear to require.”

Mr. Sheridan's objection to the resolution did not arise from any statement contained in it, respecting the *full* and *free* representation of the people, but he and his friends argued against the power of both houses, in any case, to limit the authority of the regent, and contended, that the immediate nomination of the heir-apparent ought to take place, as a matter of constitutional right. Those who are sincere admirers of the British Constitution, as derived from the legitimate source of authority, will not readily coincide in the doctrines advanced upon the occasion, by the leading members of Opposition.

Mr. Sheridan continued a strenuous opponent of the measures of Mr. Fox's administration, and, in consequence of Mr. Pitt's secession, stood at the head of Opposition. With the single exception of his conduct on the question of the regency, his parliamentary life cannot be accused of inconsistency. He
professed,

professed, in common with most of his friends, an enthusiastic admiration of the French Revolution, and considered the constitution it had formed, as a glorious fabric of human wisdom, erected for the perfection of human happiness; but when he saw that constitution defaced and polluted by the frantic and murderous policy of the successive rulers of France, he readily concurred in reprobating crimes, which were destructive of freedom and social happiness, and directly repugnant to the principles on which the revolution was originally effected.

He has ever been the zealous supporter of parliamentary reform, and the uniform friend of the liberty of the press and of religious toleration. In financial considerations, in our political and commercial relations with Ireland, and more particularly in every important discussion relative to constitutional subjects, he has evinced great depth of enquiry, and acuteness of discrimination. He has frequently risen superior to the selfish drudgery of a mere partizan, and his spirited conduct during the awful crisis of the naval mutiny received the thanks of the minister, and will be long remembered with gratitude by the nation. He expressed his conviction, that, whatever difference in political sentiments might prevail among the members of the House of Commons, the moment was come when his Majesty had an undoubted right to call upon all his subjects, of every rank and description, for their zealous co-operation in supporting the due execution of the laws, and in giving every possible efficiency to the measures of government.

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Mr. Sheridan's voice is strong and distinct, but his delivery is often precipitate, and his manner unimportant. He wants the dignity of Mr. Pitt, and the fire of Mr. Fox ; but, in the ingenuity of observation, and the felicity of reply, he is not inferior to either of them in their happiest moments. He excels in raillery, which, at once elegant and severe, is peculiarly suited to the senate. Though he seems cautiously to avoid the use of figurative diction and splendid imagery in his speeches, his celebrated oration on the trial of Mr. Hastings is an ample testimony of his ability to introduce them with the most appropriate effect.

It cannot be denied, that his propensity to epigrammatic point and humorous allusion frequently exceeds the bounds of propriety, and hurries him to a levity of remark that is at variance with the gravity of the subject in discussion. We laugh indeed for the moment, but soon condemn the speaker for trifling with a great object of national consideration.

Mrs. Sheridan died in June, 1792, and he has a son by that lady, who possesses considerable abilities. In 1795, he married Miss Ogle, youngest daughter of the Reverend Doctor Newton Ogle, Dean of Winchester. The issue of his second marriage is also a son.

His conduct as manager and principal proprietor of the first theatre in the kingdom, and his punctuality in the discharge of the duties contracted by him

him in that situation, have rarely been the subject of praise.*

In private life, Mr. Sheridan is one of the most entertaining and instructive companions in the kingdom. His conversation abounds in witty similitudes, humorous allusions, and lively rapartee; and when any subject of enlarged investigation is brought forward, the treasures of general learning, with which he has stored his mind, are proportionate to the exigency of the moment. It is, perhaps, in the knowledge of human nature that he surpasses all his contemporaries. His sagacity has been particularly exercised in discovering the character and propensities of his acquaintances, or of those with whom he has any business to transact, and he generally succeeds in converting this kind of knowledge to his own advantage.

After a retirement of twenty years from the stage, Mr. Sheridan came forward, at the end of the season in 1799, in the humble situation of the editor of Kotzebue, the celebrated German dramatist, and appears, in that instance, to have been more actuated

* In justice to Mr. Sheridan, we cannot but observe in this place, that in the legal discussion of the claims of the proprietors of Drury-lane Theatre, in the Court of Chancery, so far from any imputation being thrown out against his conduct, it was generally the subject of praise, and the Chancellor himself (Lord Eldon) spoke in the handsomest terms of Mr. Sheridan's *integrity*, though certainly he thought his *prudence* was, in some instances, liable to be questioned.

by his interest as a manager, than by the generous feelings of a writer emulous of lasting fame.

The speech of Rolla, exhorting the Peruvians to defend their king and country, and their civil and religious institutions, against a ferocious band of lawless invaders, was highly instrumental to the success of the piece, and it is the only passage of the play to which Mr. Sheridan has an exclusive claim. The appeal to the people in support of their rights and national independence is bold and animating. The striking image of the vulture and the lamb, is, however, used with more effect in his speech on the impeachment of Mr. Hastings; but his right to borrow from himself cannot be questioned.

The genius of the German dramatist is unquestionably of the first order. In conducting a passion through its most intricate mazes, he is, perhaps, unequalled, and he seldom fails to produce emotions of the most agonizing kind. But probability, the genuine source of concern and dramatic feeling, is too frequently violated. An instant's reflection is sufficient to expose the delusion of the scene, and destroy the interest which the skill of the poet creates.

Mr. Sheridan must be convinced, that, with the exception of Rolla's patriotic harangue, Pizarro is more indebted for its popularity to the merits of the original, to the actor, the machinist, the painter, and the composer, than to any alterations he has made, or to any judgment he has evinced in adapting it to the English stage. It is to be lamented, that he has, by this motley exhibition, degraded his reputation as
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the first dramatic writer of the country, and sunk himself to a level with the play-wrights of the day, to whom profit is every thing, and fame nothing.

It is with pleasure, however, we learn, that an opera, under the title of the Foresters, has for a considerable time employed his pen; and we doubt not that the genius of Mr. Sheridan will, in this original work, make a very ample atonement for the false lustre which his name and his patronage obtained for the adopted bantling of Kotzebue.

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THE HON. THOMAS ERSKINE.

THE subject of these pages is the third son of the late Earl of Buchan, and youngest brother to the present Earl; the second holds an eminent station at the Scotch bar. There are no satisfactory documents of the youthful part of his history. It is, however, well known that he entered very early in life in the navy, a service for which he had imbibed a strong predilection.

He went to sea with the late Sir John Lindsay, nephew of the great Earl of Mansfield. He never, it is believed, had the commission of lieutenant, but acted for some time in that capacity, by the appointment of his captain. His reason for quitting the navy is said to have been the slender chance of obtaining promotion; and as he had only served as a lieutenant in consequence of the friendship of his commander, he was unwilling, after having been

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honoured with such a distinction, to return to sea in the inferior capacity of midshipman.

On quitting the naval service, he entered into the army as an ensign in the Royals, or first regiment of foot. This was in the year 1768, and happened not so much from inclination (as it is said), as because his father, with a small and strictly entailed estate, had not the means of assisting him, with convenience, to pursue one of the learned professions. He went with his regiment to Minorca, in which island he spent three years, and continued in the army about six.

During the period he continued in the army, he had acquired considerable reputation for the acuteness and versatility of his talents in conversation. Mr. Boswell, who met him about this time in a mixed company in London, mentions, in his Memoirs of Dr. Johnson, the delight which the Doctor and himself felt from the ability of a gentleman, who was no other than Mr. Erskine, in discoursing on some temporary topic which, at that time, happened to be an interesting question of dispute in the circles of the metropolis.

Whether the consciousness of these powers, or the suggestions of his friends, or the embarrassments of a scanty income, first invited him to make preparations for the study of the law, it is of no importance to enquire. The resolution, from whatever cause it proceeded, must, in a great measure, have been supported by that internal confidence in his own talents, which is inseparable from great and elevated minds;

and from that spirit of adventure which is incidental to genius—which overlooks slight obstacles and ordinary difficulties. There is a fashion among biographical writers, of endeavouring to discover in the person whose life they are writing, an innate original predisposition for the peculiar department of science or literature in which he has been eminent, forgetting that, in the nature of things, the pursuit must be wholly accidental, and that “in every region of the air,” the flight of powerful intellect must be equally lofty and vigorous. It has, however, been said, and we have reason to believe with truth, that Mr. Erskine had no merit whatever in the extraordinary adventure of embarking in so new and arduous a pursuit, but that it was literally and most unwillingly forced upon him by the importunities of his mother, the Countess of Buchan, after the death of his father; and that the hopes of succeeding in it were fortified and kept alive, against his own prepossessions, by her counsel and persuasions. Although, in the privacy of domestic life, the greatest characters and the brightest talents may pass away without record and remembrance, Mr. Erskine’s mother was a lady of most uncommon acquirements and singular penetration. She thought, no doubt, that she perceived the capacity of her son, and in the confidence of parental affection, planned out this scheme of his future destination, while he was absent in the army at Minorca.

Mr. Erskine was about twenty-six when he commenced his course of legal study. He entered as a Fellow-Commoner of Trinity College, in Cambridge,

in the year 1777; and, at the same time, inserted his name as a student on the books of Lincoln's Inn. One of his college declamations is still extant, as it was delivered in Trinity College Chapel. The thesis was the Revolution of 1688. It displays extraordinary powers of language, and it is easy to discover, in some of its passages, the elements, as it were, of that forensic eloquence in which he afterwards acquired so unequalled a pre-eminence. It would be too mean a praise to say, that it bears very striking features of superiority over the declamations which are usually produced on those occasions. It gained the first prize, which he refused to accept, not attending Cambridge as a student, and only declaiming in conformity to the rules of the college. An ode, written by Mr. Erskine, about this time, in imitation of Gray's Bard, is worthy of notice as a sportive production of his fancy: it has been published in the Monthly Magazine. It originated in an occasion truly humorous. Mr. Erskine had been disappointed by his barber, who neglected his usual attendance upon him, and prevented him from dining in the College-hall. In the moment of disappointment, hunger, and impatience, he is supposed to have poured forth a malediction against the whole race of barbers, with a denunciation, prophetic of a future taste for cropping and unpowdered hair.

Mr. Erskine did not enter into the University for any academical purpose, but merely to obtain a degree to which he was entitled as the son of a nobleman, and by which he saved two years and a half in
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his passage to the bar. His education had been previously completed in Scotland. His father, one of the most accomplished men of his time, had uniformly felt an extraordinary solicitude as to the education of his children, and actually removed from his family estate in Scotland for the purpose of residing at St. Andrew's, where he continued for many years. During this time he procured for them a private tutor, one of the most elegant scholars of that part of the island, to assist their studies at the school and university. Mr. Erskine always pursued the study of the Belles Lettres with unremitting ardour, and had the advantage of imbibing from the most eminent persons of the day, that various and extended knowledge which can never be derived from books or solitary application. In order to acquire a necessary knowledge of the mechanical parts of his future profession, he was persuaded, by the judicious counsels of his friends, to enter as a pupil into the office of Judge Buller, then an eminent special pleader at the bar.

During this period of his life, Mr. Erskine was subject to the necessities of a very limited income. He had been already married about four years, and was obliged to adhere to a most rigid frugality of expenditure. Of these circumstances of his history, many of the particulars have, with great ingenuousness, been mentioned to his friends by Mr. Erskine himself.

In reviewing the difficulties he had encountered, and in contrasting them with the brilliant prosperity

of his later years, he must now feel a peculiar gratification; because by an involuntary impulse he must have attributed his extraordinary elevation to the endowments allotted to him by nature, rather than to the caprice or partialities of fortune. The part sustained by Mrs. Erskine, before the cloud that overhung their first entrance into life was dissipated, is highly honourable to her feelings; she accompanied him to Minorca, followed his fortunes with the most cheerful constancy, and while he was engaged in the pursuits of a most laborious profession, never suffered any pleasure or amusement to interrupt her in the assiduous discharge of her domestic duties.

While he remained in the office of Mr. Buller, he pursued the business of the desk with unremitted activity and ardour; and, on Mr. Buller's promotion, he went into the office of Mr. Wood, where he continued a year after he had been in considerable business at the bar. Special pleading, though not unfrequently considered as the mechanical part of the profession, has lately arrived at a higher dignity than lawyers of former times were willing to allow it. The absolute and hourly necessity of it is now recognized by every one who is conversant with the business of our courts of justice. It consists in a sort of analytical correctness, and its highest utility is derived from the habits of artificial acuteness which it imparts, and the nice and skilful subtleties on which it is perpetually occupied. Although Mr. Erskine never practised as a professed special pleader, the notion of his being ignorant of that branch of the legal

legal science is founded in the grossest misrepresentation. No one understands the principles of that science more correctly; nor is any one more dextrous in the seasonable application of them, as a species of *law logic*; a phrase by which the late Sir William Jones accurately defined the art of the special pleader.

In what manner our advocate cultivated the arts of popular declamation does not clearly appear. It has been said, that he was an assiduous attendant at Coachmakers' Hall, where a debating club of some estimation was at that time held. But the style of Mr. Erskine's oratory bears internal testimony against this assertion. The eloquence that is cultivated in these societies is altogether of a nature remote from the uses of the bar or the senate. The debates of the evening are for the most part conducted by a set of speakers, or rather spouters, who vociferate a collection of crude declamatory sentences to a tumultuous audience, which, taking no cognizance of felicities of style or diction, bestows its applause on the orator who makes the greatest noise, and acts his part with the greatest vehemence. Such are not the academic shades in which English eloquence is nurtured. Perhaps the most distinguished of our orators have acquired their perfection in public speaking more by silent meditation and study, than by declaiming in public. Unquestionably he can never be a good speaker, who has been habituated to that noisy rant, of which the greatest praise is a rapidity of utterance, and by which the rules and harmony of

the language are exposed to perpetual violence and perversion.

He had now completed the probationary period allotted to the attendance in the inns of court; and he was called to the bar in the Trinity Term, 1778. Mr. Erskine is a singular exception to the tardy advancement of professional merit at the English bar. It is not worth enquiring how long he continued a mute auditor in the back benches of the court, amongst the crowd of young men, who may be, not unaptly, compared to the ghosts that linger on the banks of the Styx for a passage over the lake; but, by a singular partiality of fortune, he was not tortured by the "hope deferred," and the sickening expectation of a brief in Westminster Hall, which so many men of promising talents are doomed to undergo: an opportunity was almost immediately afforded him of distinguishing himself in Westminster Hall. Captain Baillie, who had been removed from the government in Greenwich Hospital by Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty, and one of the Governors of Greenwich Hospital, had been charged with having published a libel against that nobleman, and the Attorney-General was instructed to move for leave to file a criminal information against him; this was the occasion of Mr. Erskine's first speech in court. In opposing the motion of the Attorney-General, an opportunity presented itself to him of entering into the merits of the case in behalf of Captain Baillie. He expatiated upon the services which

which had been rendered by his client, and on the firmness with which he resisted the intrigue and artifice to which he attributed the prosecution set on foot against him.

In the course of this speech, he attacked the noble Earl in a tone of sarcastic and indignant invective. Lord Mansfield interrupted him more than once, but the advocate did not abate of the severity of his animadversions. It was at that time no common spectacle, to observe a man, so little known to the court and the bar, commenting, with asperity of remark, on the conduct of a powerful statesman, who held an elevated post in the administration, and distinguishing himself by a species of confidence not usually felt in early efforts of public speaking, under circumstances that rendered it more prudent to abstain from personal severity, and to conciliate the court he was addressing. These strictures on Lord Sandwich were unquestionably severe; but, if any faith is to be placed in the testimony of his contemporaries, both in office and in opposition, they are not unfounded. Colonel Luttrell, speaking of him in the House of Commons, observed, with a pointed eloquence, that "*there is in his conduct such a sanctimonious composure of guilt, that the rarity and perfection of the vice almost constituted it a virtue.*"

This was the first trial of his talents at the bar, having been called only in Trinity-Term, and having been employed for Captain Baillie in the Michaelmas Term following. He is said to have been indebted for this opportunity to no interference, recommendation,

dation, or connexion. His acquaintance with Captain Baillie originated in his having accidentally met him at the table of a common friend. Almost immediately afterwards Mr. Erskine appeared at the bar of the House of Commons, as counsel for Mr. Carnan, the bookseller, against a bill introduced by Lord North, then Prime Minister, to re-vest in the Universities the monopoly in Almanacks, which Mr. Carnan had succeeded in abolishing by legal judgments, and he had the good fortune to place the Noble Lord in a considerable minority upon a division.

To the reputation which these speeches conferred upon him, it has been said, that he refers the subsequent success he has experienced in his profession, and that, as he left the court upon that occasion, nearly thirty briefs were offered to him by the attornies who were present. He was now surrounded by clients, and occupied by business. Of the various cases in which he was employed, it would be absurd to expect any mention, as they consisted only of the ordinary and daily transactions of the term and the sittings.

The public feelings were now altogether occupied by the interesting trial of Admiral Keppel. Mr. Erskine was retained as counsel for the Admiral; a circumstance that was owing to the ignorance which the counsel, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee, (who were originally engaged) displayed of the sea phrases, without some knowledge of which the case was in a great measure unintelligible. Mr. Dunning recommended Mr. Erskine as qualified for the duty, having been
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made acquainted with the manner in which he had passed the former part of his life.

The duty of a counsel before a Court Martial is very limited by the rules and usages of the court: he is not permitted to put any question to the witnesses; but he may suggest to his client such as occur to him as necessary to be asked; nor is he suffered to address the court; and almost the only assistance he can render is in the arrangement of his defence, and the communication of such remarks on the evidence as are most likely to present themselves only to the minds of those who are habituated to the rules of testimony in courts of justice. This service was most effectually and ably rendered by Mr. Erskine. Having drawn up his defence, Mr. Erskine, personally examined all the Admirals and Captains of the fleet, and satisfied himself that he could substantiate the innocence of his client, before the speech which he had written for him was read. For his exertions on this memorable occasion, Mr. Erskine received a thousand guineas. It was the proudest office of his life to have saved a good and honourable man from disgrace, and even amidst the splendors of his succeeding fortunes, Mr. Erskine ought to look back on this event with renewed satisfaction and triumph.

He was now in possession of the best *second business* in the King's Bench. By the phrase *second business* is meant that sort of business in which the lead is not given to the counsel who are not yet arrived at the dignity of a silk gown, and of a seat within the bar of the court; but an event took place which called
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his talents into activity on a most memorable occasion: we allude to the riots, which disgraced the city of London in the year 1780. Every one knows the universal consternation which at that time agitated the kingdom; when the security of the nation was threatened in the destruction of the capital. After the suppression of these tumults, the vigilance of the magistracy was exercised in directing the insulted justice of the country against the actors in that dreadful conflagration. The part attributed to Lord George Gordon in these outrages is well known. On his guilt, or innocence, it would be indecorous in us to pronounce an opinion. There is a veneration always due to the verdict of juries; and it would be a sort of political blasphemy to call the rectitude of their decision into suspicion.

Mr. Erskine, however, was retained counsel for his Lordship, in conjunction with Mr. Kenyon, the late Chief Justice of the King's Bench. The duty which more immediately devolved on Mr. Erskine was that of replying to the evidence; a duty which he sustained with infinite judgment and spirit. His speech on this trial abounds with many of the most finished graces of rhetoric. It is rapid and impetuous, and altogether in that style and character which are most impressive in judicial assemblies. The exordium is after the artificial method of the ancients, who never begin an oration without an appeal to the tribunal they are addressing, upon the embarrassments and peril of the function they have undertaken. "I stand," said Mr. Erskine, "much more in need
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of compassion than the noble prisoner. He rests secure in conscious innocence, and in the assurance that his innocence will suffer no danger in your hands. But I appear before you a young and inexperienced advocate; little conversant with courts of criminal justice; and sinking under the dreadful consciousness of that inexperience."

There is perhaps no department of his profession, in which our advocate has reached higher excellence, than in his observations on evidence. The defence of Lord George Gordon required the exercise of these powers to their amplest extent; as the case on the part of the crown was supported by a variety of witnesses. Having delivered to the jury the doctrine of High Treason, as it had been established by the celebrated act of Edward the Third, and as it was expounded in the best authorities, he made a most dextrous application of those rules to the evidence, which had been adduced. They who study this speech will observe, with emotions of admiration, the subtleties with which he abates the force of the testimony he is encountering, and the artful eloquence with which he exposes its defects, and its contradictions. "I say, *by God*, that man is a ruffian, who on such evidence as this, seeks to establish a conclusion of guilt," he exclaimed, as he was finishing this topic of his defence. An impassioned mode of exclamation, which, though it may find some apology in the perpetual example of Cicero, is not suited to the chastity and soberness of English eloquence. Of this speech, the concluding sentence is truly pathetic.

thetic. We scarcely hesitate to pronounce it to be the best effort of Mr. Erskine's talents; it does not, indeed, display the minute beauties of cultivated diction, nor those grave remarks of moral wisdom with which his later speeches, in imitation of Mr. Burke, are pregnant; but, considered in reference to the occasion on which it was delivered, it is a most astonishing effort of vigorous and polished intellect.

In the month of May, 1783, Mr. Erskine received the honour of a silk gown: his Majesty's letters of precedence being conferred upon him, as it has been said, at the personal suggestion of the venerable Lord Mansfield. To this distinction, his portion of the business, and his acknowledged talents, gave him an unanswerable pretension. Mr. Erskine is a remarkable instance of a rapid advancement to this honour, not having been at the bar quite five years. His business was now considerably augmented, and he succeeded to that place which had been so long occupied by Mr. Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton.

It would be impossible, within the space allotted to this article, to give an account of the causes pleaded by Mr. Erskine; his exertions being, for the most part, occupied in the transactions of daily occurrences which are discussed in our courts of justice; of these there are no other documents than the journals of the day, from which fidelity of statement cannot be expected.

In no part of his professional engagements has Mr. Erskine deserved or acquired an higher reputation
than

in the mode of conducting trials for *crim. con.* It has frequently fallen to his lot to be concerned in behalf of plaintiffs in these actions, a circumstance which has given him considerable advantage; for besides the attention which is sure to be afforded to accusing eloquence, the sympathies of mankind are naturally in alliance with him who hurls his invective against the disturber of domestic peace, and the invader of conjugal happiness; and alarming as the frequency of these causes may be, yet the torrent of public licentiousness has received no slight impediment from the indignant feelings of the world, and the exemplary damages awarded by juries. To this honourable and useful end, the eloquence of the advocate is subservient. He calls the slumbering emotions, and the virtuous sensibilities of men, into a sort of active league against the crime which he denounces. Mr. Erskine's speech, in the memorable cause of Sykes and Parslow, is still remembered, by those who heard it, as an uncommon effort of rhetorical ability.

Mr. Erskine has also been concerned in some of the remarkable causes for *crim. con.* on behalf of defendants. His exertions are well known in the memorable cases of Baldwin against Oliver, tried at York, and the recent one of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, in both which cases there were but one shilling damages. And, on these occasions, Mr. Erskine has done equal service to the cause of morality and virtue, by pointing out the infamy of unyoking the female passions from the restraints of conjugal protection and domestic attachments. His speech in Howard against
Bingham

Bingham will be long remembered at the bar; it contains a most affecting apology for the lady, who was married against her consent, while her affections had been bestowed upon another: it abounds with pathetic remarks on the harshness and cruelty of chaining down to a man, whom she hated, a young and beautiful woman, and, for purposes of family arrangement or ambition, dedicating her life to a reluctant discharge of duties, the obligations of which she could not perceive, and the conditions of which she could not sustain. In this speech there is no apology for vice, but an excuse for human frailty, which is pleaded with great warmth and great eloquence.

From the infinite variety of these causes in which he has been concerned; it is not extraordinary that he should have acquired too artificial and commonplace a method of putting his topics; but it is no just cause of reproach that Mr. Erskine should, in a great measure, have exhausted his store of expression and of thinking on these subjects: this is not poverty, but exhausted wealth,—the indigence arising from too lavish a prodigality of his mental opulence. He who looks for a perfect model of the style of Mr. Erskine, must examine his speech on the trial of Stockdale. When the charges against Mr. Hastings were published by the House of Commons, a Mr. Logie, a clergyman of the church of Scotland, and a friend of the Governor-General, wrote a tract, in which those charges were investigated with some acrimony, but with considerable warmth and vigour, the pamphlet being considered as libellous, by a resolution

lution of the House, a criminal information was filed by the Attorney-General against Stockdale, who was the publisher, for a libel.

In the course of his defence of Stockdale, Mr. Erskine urged many collateral topics in favour of Mr. Hastings, in a style of fervid and ornamented eloquence. Adverting to the charges preferred against Mr. Hastings, he expatiates on the obvious absurdity exhibited by a power, guilty of rapine and oppression, in presuming to sit in judgment upon those to whom its authority had been delegated, and by whom its own tyranny had been exercised. He dwells upon the ridiculous conduct of a nation, proceeding in its iniquitous career of plunder and rapacity, in saying to the subordinate instruments of its usurpation, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther;" that a great empire was to be preserved by Mr. Hastings, and that it was only to be preserved by the means which were used to acquire it; by acts of rigorous and severe authority. He then takes notice of the violation of human happiness, for which the nation was responsible, in the exercise of her eastern dominion; concluding the topic in the following strain of energetic oratory:—

"Gentlemen; you are touched by this way of considering the subject; and I can account for it. I have been talking of man, and his nature, not as they are seen through the cold medium of books, but as I have myself seen them in climes reluctantly submitting to our authority. I have seen an indignant

savage chief, surrounded by his subjects, and holding in his hand a bundle of sticks, the notes of his unlettered eloquence. 'Who is it,' said the jealous ruler of a forest, encroached upon by the restless foot of English adventure, 'Who is it that causes these mountains to lift up their lofty heads? Who raises the winds of the winter, and calms them again in the summer? The same Being who gave to you a country on your side of the water, and our's to us on this.'

This is, perhaps, a species of rhetorical ornament more figurative than our national eloquence, which does not tolerate the boldness of the prosopopeia, seems strictly to admit; yet it is impossible not to be struck with the sublimity of the passage. The exertions of Mr. Erskine procured the acquittal of the defendant.

Of this speech the faults and the beauties are equally obvious; it is too elaborate and artificial in its texture; its sentences are too much burdened with epithets, and it wants the charm and the ornament of simplicity: under some restrictions, it may be said, *abundat dulcibus vitis*. In the beginning of this harangue, he has displayed a regard for his own profession truly honourable to his feelings; and it is not the least praise which is due to his professional character, that he is never known to omit any opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to the bar, of which he is the most shining ornament and example.

Mr. Erskine was elected member of parliament for
Portsmouth

Portsmouth in the year 1783; an honour which he probably derived from the reputation he had acquired at the court-martial which sat there on the trial of Admiral Keppel. His political character may be extracted from his speeches in courts of justice, as well as from his uniform conduct in parliament: whether the consistency of his course is to be attributed to a singular felicity of fortune, or to the demands which his business has at all times had on his time and his exertions, and which rendered his political ambition subordinate to his love of professional fame; yet the praise of inflexible patriotism, and a rigid adherence to the men and measures he approved, must ever be yielded to his character.

From no transaction of his life is a greater and more permanent reputation derived by Mr. Erskine than in his noble struggles in defence of the trial by jury. The law, as it is now expounded by Mr. Fox's bill, which Mr. Erskine paved the way for in the courts, and seconded and supported in parliament, is a monument erected to his patriotism and ability. A strange paradox had crept into the judicial practice, which, restricting the power of juries in questions of libel to the arbitrary interpretation of the judges, reduced it in fact to a shadow and a nullity. A rule derived from the venal opinion and practice of bad judges, in bad times, was adopted by honest and upright men from real conviction, and a sense of duty in adhering to what they conceived to be precedent and authority. The question had already been frequently agitated in trials for libel. It had exercised

the pens and tongues of the ablest lawyers, and had been discussed in the luminous and elegant letters of Junius. It was reserved for Mr. Erskine, in his celebrated argument in support of a rule for a new trial in the Dean of St. Asaph's case, to concentrate all the doctrines, and to combine all the reasonings which lay scattered throughout so many volumes of legal learning. In this elaborate argument, he most triumphantly established his position, that juries were judges of the law as well as the fact. Upon the principles laid down in this speech, Mr. Fox framed his immortal bill; which, though it received the most acrimonious opposition, in both houses of legislature, has at length happily rescued the question from controversy, by the establishment of a criterion, to which the rights and duties of juries may at all times be referred.

On the original trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, at Shrewsbury, where Mr. Erskine appeared as counsel for the Dean, a special verdict was delivered by the jury, finding the defendant guilty only of *the fact of publishing*. Mr. Justice Buller, who presided at the trial, desired them to re-consider^d it, as it could not be recorded in the terms in which they expressed it. On this occasion Mr. Erskine insisted that the verdict should be recorded as it was found. This was resisted by the Judge, who, meeting with unusual opposition from the counsel, peremptorily told him to sit down, or he should compel him. "My Lord," returned Mr. Erskine, "I will not sit down—Your Lordship may do your duty, but I will do mine."

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The Judge was silent. It would have been more consistent with the dignity of the court, if the threat, which he did not feel himself prepared to execute, had not escaped the learned Judge. Mr. Erskine concludes his argument in this case, with this sentiment :

“ It was the first command and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be my duty ; and to leave the consequences to God. I shall carry with me the memory, and I trust the practice, of this parental lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and have no reason to complain that my obedience to it has been even a temporal sacrifice. I have found it, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth ; and I shall point it out as such to my children.”

The independence exhibited by our advocate on every occasion, threw upon him the defences of persons prosecuted for sedition or libel by Government. No reasoning can be more uncandid, than to infer that his political opinions had any real sympathy with those entertained by the numerous race of libellers who resorted to him for legal protection. They know but little of the duty of a counsel who reason in this manner. As a servant of the public, he is bound by the obligations of professional honour to afford his assistance to those who engage him in their behalf. It is the privilege of the accused, in a free country, to be heard impartially and equitably, and to be tried by the fair interpretation of the laws to which he is amenable. They who imagine that the advocate

identifies with his own, the opinions and acts of the party he is representing, are carried away by erroneous reasonings, tending, in their consequences, to deprive the innocent of protection, by denying a fair measure of justice to the guilty. This sense of duty Mr. Erskine has carried to an honourable extreme, not having been deterred from it by the malignant representations of party calumny, nor tempted to abandon it by the hopes and promises of professional promotion. His defence, however, of Paine, occasioned his sudden dismissal from the office he held as Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales. It is unnecessary to inquire who were the advisers at Carleton-House upon this occasion; it is sufficient to say, that the measure was dictated by minds of too weak a texture, and too contracted a size, to comprehend either the duties of an English advocate, or the rights of an English subject. In justice, however, to the Prince, there is no reason to believe that he approved of the measure, or willingly acceded to it. In a period of political phrenzy, it was forced upon him by those who could not feel the enlarged and liberal sentiments of that great personage on such an occasion, and who were not ashamed to make use of the most unworthy instruments of political artifice and intrigue, having no other political science than that of pursuing objects most familiar to their minds, by means most adapted to their understandings. This opinion is greatly strengthened by a recent mark of the special confidence which his Royal Highness still reposes on the abilities and integrity of this great advocate.

advocate. If there was ever the slightest shade of disgrace thrown upon his character by the dismissal from his former office of Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales, it has certainly received the most honourable reparation which it was in the power of his Royal Highness to afford, by his appointment to the dignity of Chancellor to the Prince of Wales; an office which has lain dormant for many years.

The most brilliant event in Mr. Erskine's professional life was the part cast upon him, in conjunction with Mr. Gibbs, in the state trials, in the year 1794. The accused persons looked to Mr. Erskine as their instrument of safety. He undertook their several defences with an enthusiasm which rendered him insensible to the fatigues of a long and continued exertion; nothing was omitted that could elucidate their innocence; nothing overlooked that could tend to weaken the force of the case stated against them by the crown lawyers. These trials lasted several days: the public expectation hung upon them with the most inconceivable anxiety, and the feelings of good men and virtuous citizens accompanied the accused to their trial, with hopes, not unmixed with apprehension, that, from their acquittal, the liberty of the subject would receive additional strength and confirmation.

One of Mr. Erskine's latest speeches was upon the prosecution of the publisher of Paine's Age of Reason. It is a signal blessing, in an age when the sentiment is openly under-valued and despised, that men of great talents should display a lively sensibility to the

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obligations

obligations of religion, as the best support of morality and conscience, and that they should employ their eloquence and their reason (the best gift of God to man) in impressing on the general mind the consolations derived from the truths it has imparted. A more eloquent, solemn, or impressive oration was never delivered, than that which Mr. Erskine made on this occasion.

The character of this great man is reflected by the actions of a life spent in the active exercise of an honourable occupation. His various talents, even by the violence of party, have not once been questioned. To say that he is unequal in his intellectual efforts, is to say little more than may be affirmed of the greatest men who have flourished in eloquence, in poetry, or philosophy. Let him, however, who desires to frame a correct estimate of his powers, attend the court in which they are hourly exercised : let him not build his judgment on an insulated specimen ; let him pursue his mind, as it were, to the context, and combine his diversified merits in the endless variety of causes on which he is occupied ; let him remark the facility of transition with which he glides to the successive transactions of the day ; the correctness with which he narrates and details their circumstances, and the unceasing pliability of his mind on subjects of such various and discordant natures.

It would be gratifying to exhibit the domestic character of Mr. Erskine. He has four sons and four daughters ; and, in the bosom of his family, he finds a soothing relaxation from the cares and agitations of his

his public engagements. Whatever time he can snatch from the accumulated mass of labours with which he is surrounded, is devoted to social intercourse with his friends and his family. No man is endowed with a greater share of constitutional vivacity;* he is sportive, and almost puerile in his relaxations; a circumstance not unfrequently found in the history of men of genius.

Upon these topics we cannot enlarge. In this memoir an attempt has been made to exhibit his public character with fairness and impartiality. Of his private virtues, it would be indecorous to make any enumeration. *Integritatem atque abstinenciam in tanto viro referre injuria virtutum fuerit.*

TACIT. in vit. Agric.

C. H.

DOCTOR PARR.

OF this profound scholar and upright man, we wish that our plan would admit of a more ample account; as well to gratify our own feelings, by paying the tribute due to his extraordinary merits, as to indulge the curiosity of our readers, so justly excited by the celebrity of his name. But where much is said in commendation of a living character, a great deal will be regarded as adulation, or ascribed to the

* We never have seen a portrait which does justice to the expression and vivacity of his countenance. We do not think the artist who drew the sketch in our frontispiece, has been more happy than his predecessors.

partiality

partiality of friendship ; we shall, therefore, be cautious that we do not expose ourselves to the suspicion of having wandered from the truth.

Dr. Parr was born at Harrow-on-the-Hill, on the 26th of January, 1746-7. His father was a surgeon and apothecary, of considerable practice. He received his education chiefly under Doctor Thackeray, and partly under Doctor Sumner, at the school which has so highly distinguished the place of his birth : he became head boy at fourteen years of age, and was contemporary with Mr. Halhed and the late Sir William Jones.

His father intended to make him a physician, and, in order to instruct him in the practice of physic, employed him for more than three years in his own business. But, having taken some dislike to the medical profession, or rather wishing to indulge his early predilection for the clerical, he was, in 1765, sent to Emanuel College, Cambridge ; where his genius and learning soon became eminently conspicuous, and procured him the notice and friendship of the greatest literary characters.

He became first assistant at Harrow School in January, 1767 ; and was particularly attached to the learned Doctor Sumner, the master, whose anxious wish was to have Doctor Parr for his successor. The Doctor always speaks of him with the warmest affection, and the highest respect and gratitude ; and has often expressed his wonder and his love, that no literary jealousy ever interrupted their friendship. While he was in this situation, he was ordained by Bishop Terrick,

Terrick, at Christmas, 1769 ; and, for four months held the united curacies of Kingsbury and Wilsden, in Middlesex. He *served* only the curacy of Kingsbury, but gave the profits of both to a worthy clergyman, who served Wilsden ; and upon this subject he explained himself very fully to the Bishop of London.

Doctor Sumner died of an apoplexy, about the middle of September, 1771 ;* and Doctor Parr, who had

* The following is a correct copy of the inscription upon Doctor Sumner's monument, in Harrow church. It was written by Doctor Parr, and we have given it a place here, because every intelligent and learned reader must feel a desire to see the character of such a master as Doctor S. delineated by the pen of such a pupil as Doctor P. He has since very much altered his style in this elegant species of literature : a most delightful specimen of his present distinguished excellence in the composition of which will be given by and bye.

H. S. E. •

Robertus Sumner, S. T. P.

Coll. Regal. apud Cantab. olim Socius.

Scholæ Harrovensis, haud ita pridem,

Archididaschalus.

Fuit huic præstantissimo Viro

Ingenium Natura peracre, optimarum

Disciplinis Artium sedulo excultum,

Usu diuturno confirmatum, et quodam,

Modo subactum.

Nemo enim

Aut in reconditis sapientiæ Studiis illo

Subtilior exstitit

Aut in humanioribus literis limatior

Naturæ egregiis cum dotibus tum

Doctrinæ prædito

Insuper accedebant

In

had long sustained the weight of the business of the school, was a candidate for the mastership. His youth was objected to him; for he had entered on the office of first assistant, as the reader has seen, before he was twenty; he had continued in it till he was nearly twenty-five; and such was the propriety of his conduct, and such the impression made upon the minds of the boys, by his learning, his integrity, and his manliness of spirit, that, upon his rejection from the mastership, they broke out into the most violent rebellion ever known. The Doctor always spoke in terms of great respect of Doctor Heath, who was the more successful candidate. But, having been born in the town, having been educated on the foundation, having entered the school when he was five years and four months old, having reached the first place in it

In Sententiis, vera ac perfecta eloquentia,
 In Sermone, facetiarum lepos, plenè
 Atticus,
 Et gravitati aspersa urbanitas;
 In moribus singularis quædam
 Integritas et fides;
 Vitæ denique Ratio constans sibi, et ad
 Virtutis normam diligenter
 Severeque exacta,
 Omnibus qui vel amico essent eo
 Vel magistro usi,
 Doctrinæ, Ingenii, Virtutis justum
 Reliquit Desiderium,
 Subite, cheu, atque immatura morte correptus,
 Prid. Id. Septemb.
 Anno Domini M,DCC,LXXI.
 Æt. suæ 41.

before

before he was fourteen, having quitted it four months afterwards with considerable reputation for his attainments, having been appointed to the office of first assistant before he was twenty, and having discharged the duties of it nearly five years, with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of Doctor Sumner and the boys, he could not prevail upon himself to act under any other master: he, therefore, resigned the place of assistant, and bought and fitted up a house at Stanmore. The most violent clamours were raised against him, and circulated in all the newspapers; in which he was accused of having fomented the rebellion. He felt his disappointment at Harrow embittered by these groundless charges, but he always professed his perfect conviction that time would establish his innocence; and he often smiled at the impotence, as well as the wickedness, of an accusation, which the evidence of two hundred and fifty boys was to confute or to confirm.

The Doctor met with difficulties in obtaining a license for his school at Stanmore, but he surmounted them by his firmness, and he had the satisfaction to open the school with forty-five boys, of whom all but one followed him from Harrow; and among them were the best scholars of the highest form. He pursued his own plan of education; and he twice employed his scholars in the representation of Greek plays, to which he was led by the perusal of Milton's letter to Hartlib, by conversation with his school-fellow and friend the celebrated Sir William Jones, and by confidence in the powers of some
young

young men who were then under his care. The first play was *Cædipus Tyrannus*, and the second was the *Trachinians*. The choruses were omitted; but the dialogue was repeated with great accuracy, elegance, and pathos. The audience was composed of many learned men: and the Doctor has often declared, that, by instructing the young men in their parts, he had more effectually improved their erudition and their taste than he could have done by the ordinary modes of instruction. The first experiment brought upon the Doctor some sarcastic reproaches, which reached his ears, and to which he replied in a prologue of Greek iambics.

The Doctor's mind was ill at ease while he continued in the neighbourhood of Harrow, his native place. His expences were enormous, his profits were inconsiderable, his labours were most oppressive, and he found by experience the impossibility of supporting his situation against the credit of a great public school, and the just reputation of his competitor, Doctor Heath; he, therefore, in the spring of 1776, accepted the mastership of Colchester school; and the greater part of his Stanmore scholars followed him thither. At this place he was curate of the parishes of Trinity and the Highe; and the virtues and talents of his principal, the late Doctor Nathaniel Foster, engaged his highest regard and respect. His residence there was extremely pleasing to him, from the friendship which he formed with that excellent man, and with the learned Mr. Twining, the translator of Aristotle. The classical taste of
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the one, and the metaphysical acuteness of the other, are always mentioned by him in terms of enthusiastic rapture. But this situation, from various causes, opened to him no prospects of permanent prosperity; therefore, in the autumn of 1778, he applied for the mastership of Norwich school, which he accordingly obtained.

In 1779, he undertook the care of two curacies at Norwich; but finding the labour incompatible with his duty as a schoolmaster, he resigned them in 1780. Hitherto he had lived unknown to the world as a writer, but the public now began to reap the fruits of his studies. In the summer of the last mentioned year he published two sermons: the first was from GAL. iv. 4. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman." This discourse had been preached in the cathedral of Norwich on the Christmas-day preceding. It is completely philosophical, but, in part only, formed on the principles of Butler's Analogy. It is earnest, but exempt from all dogmatism, and contains an answer to the objections of Deists against the late appearance of Christianity, its partial propagation, and its imperfect efficacy: and there is a note in it full of very deep and quite original matter, on the argument from analogy for a future state. The other was a charity sermon, preached at St. Peter's, Mancroft, the 24th March, 1780, from Heb. xiii. 16. "To do good, and to communicate, forget not," &c. In this sermon there is much investigation, and a very elaborate, and, sometimes, indignant answer to the objections of those

those who would tie up the poor from all intellectual improvement. These discourses are very closely printed in quarto, and contain fifty-nine pages : they were printed by Mr. Chase, of Norwich, and the profits were given to the charity schools.

About the time when the sermons were published, Lady Trafford, whose son had been educated by the Doctor, presented him to the living of Asterby, in Lincolnshire ; the annual profits of which, after the ordinary payments, amounted only to thirty-six pounds.

During his residence at Norwich, in the year 1781, the Doctor was admitted to the degree of LL.D. at Cambridge. His thesis was much applauded, and great importunity was used, in vain, to prevail on him to publish it. In the summer of the same year, came out " A Discourse on the late Fast, by Philo-leutheros Norfolciensis." The text is from St. Luke xiii. 2, 3. " Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things," &c. This sermon abounds with investigation in metaphysics and ethics, and occasionally rises to the highest pitch of that eloquence for which the Doctor is so eminently distinguished. He is known to consider the composition of it superior to that of any of his other productions. There is something odd in the history of this publication. Much of it had been written, and part of it preached, while the author was master of the school at Colchester, and he had thrown it by among his papers. On the Fast Day, this year, he heard, in the parish church of St. George's Tomb Land, Norwich, a very high-flying

flying and inflammatory sermon. He came home, looked at his own, and determined to publish it immediately; and in two or three days it went to the press, with improvements and additions. It contains thirty-eight pages in quarto, very closely printed, and, like the two former, upon vile paper. Only four hundred and fifty copies were struck off; but, although the author's name was concealed, the impression was bought up in two months.

In the spring of 1783, the Doctor was presented by Lady Trafford, his former patroness, to the perpetual curacy of Hatton, in Warwickshire. He therefore resigned the living of Asterby, and was so happy as to obtain it for his curate, the Reverend Mr. Fowler, who had a large family, and no preferment. In consequence of an application from the late Earl of Dartmouth, several of whose sons were under the Doctor's care, Bishop Lowth, with whom he was well acquainted, presented him, about the same time, to the prebend of Wenlock Barns, in the Cathedral of St. Paul: and having very faint prospects of any farther preferment, he refused to renew the leases; and in this refusal he thought himself justified, because his immediate predecessor had taken possession of the estates, and bequeathed the profits of them to his son-in-law for more than twenty years. The reserved annual rent is 17*l*.; but the Doctor in two years will be in possession; and he depends upon the income of his prebend as the solace of his declining life, and as a comfortable provision

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for his children, for the time during which the estates can be leased to trustees for their use.

In 1785 he published a discourse on education, and on the plans pursued in charity schools: the text is from Proverbs, xxii. 6. "Train up a child," &c. It is printed closely, in very large quarto, and is in two parts. It contains seventy pages, and the notes contain eight more. The author is said to have preached only so much as took up one hour and twenty minutes: it was printed for Berry, Norwich; and Evans, London. Of this discourse, I believe that not less than a thousand copies were printed, and the circulation of it was so rapid, that they were soon bought up. The four sermons which have now been mentioned were all published while the Doctor was at Norwich, and would together make a common octavo volume. The writer has been heard to express his intention of republishing them in that form; and we have no doubt that the learned reader will join us in the earnest wish that he may speedily fulfil that intention. They have all been long out of print, and are become exceedingly scarce. The author has hitherto received no profit whatever from them.

Early in 1786, the Doctor retired from the fatigue and hurry of public teaching, and came to reside at his parsonage at Hatton. Here, after enlarging, and otherwise considerably improving the house, he devoted his leisure to the private tuition of a limited number of pupils.

The year following, he assisted the late Mr. Henry Homer,

Homer, formerly of Emanuel College, Cambridge, in preparing a new edition of the three books of Bellen-denus "de Statu," to which he wrote the celebrated preface; which is, perhaps, the finest specimen of modern Latinity extant in the whole learned world. To each book the Doctor likewise wrote an appropriate dedication, remarkable for strength of thought and felicity of expression. Of his engagement with Mr. Homer, and of the rise and progress of that work, he himself has given a minute and interesting detail in a subsequent publication.* To that tract we beg leave to refer the curious reader for further and full information concerning a work, which, for keenness of satire, purity of style, and extent of erudition, has seldom been equalled, and never surpassed.

In 1789 appeared "Tracts, by Warburton and a Warburtonian, not admitted into the collection of their respective works." Of these Doctor Parr was immediately known to be the editor; and to the two tracts of a Warburtonian, at the end of that singular volume, he wrote the dedication and preface.

Never, perhaps, was the learned world more surprised and delighted than by the wit, eloquence, and genius, that shone forth in these very wonderful compositions; of which it is no exaggerated praise to say, that they unite the elegance of Addison and the accuracy of Swift to the energy of Johnson and the

* Reply to Doctor Combe's "Statement of Facts," &c. &c.

sublimity of Burke; that they at once amuse, instruct, and admonish; and that benevolence was never more conspicuous, nor candour more complete, than were displayed by the writer, in all that concerned Jortin, Leland, and even Warburton.

Of this performance much has been whispered by the ignorant, the invidious, and the prejudiced. Let the Editor speak for himself. "As some of the parties are dead, and as the controversies in which they were engaged have ceased to agitate the passions of men, this republication has not the smallest tendency to *sow strife* among scholars."* Nor has any strife been sown, though ten years have since elapsed, and many scholars who revere the memory of Warburton, and enjoy the friendship of Doctor Hurd, still survive.

On the occasion of this undertaking let us again hear the learned Editor. "The Bishop of Worcester has not deigned to give a place to the following tracts, in his late magnificent edition of Warburton's works. By republishing them, however, without the permission of the R. R. Editor, I mean not to arraign his taste or his prudence: but among readers of candour and discernment, the character of Bishop Warburton cannot suffer any diminution of its lustre from this republication. They who are curious in collecting books, must certainly be anxious to possess *all* the writings of that eminent prelate. They who mark with philosophic precision the pro-

* Tracts by Warburton, &c. p. 179.

gress of the human understanding, will look up to Warburton with *greater* reverence when they compare the better productions of his pen with the worse."* The same observations are applicable to the Tracts by the Bishop of Worcester. *He* had an undoubted right to suppress them. *Another* had an equal right to restore them to the world. Literature could sustain no injury but from their concealment.

We will admit that subjects were revived which that learned prelate might wish to be forgotten. In him it had been indecorous, and certainly imprudent, to give them farther circulation; but a writer not in his confidence, nor even acquainted with their author, had no suspicion to encounter by *his* interference, and no reproaches to dread for transgressions not his own.

If, however, one spark of animosity has been kindled between these two sagacious critics and eminent divines, we know that it has long been extinguished; and we have reason to believe, that they now "view" each other "with nobler feelings than those of mere forgiveness."†

† Preface to Warburton's two Tracts, at the beginning of the volume. "Ego," says the very learned Morhof, "cum voluptate sæpe legere soleo Maximorum Virorum, Hugonis Grotii & Danielis Heinsii, puerilia Carmina, quæ, initio hujus Seculi edita, postea Operibus ipsis non sunt inserta. Quæ, etsi a virilibus illis multum discrepant, delectat tamen Florum illa Luxuries, quos tam præclari Fructus postea secuti sunt."

Morhofii Polyhistor, &c. Lubec, 1747. Vol. I. p. 61.

† Tracts by Warburton, &c. p. 183.

In 1790 the Doctor exchanged the curacy of Hatton, though he still continues to reside there, for the rectory of Wadenhoe, in Northamptonshire, the annual profits of which, after an inclosure, amounted to near 120l. By this time he had been more than twenty years in orders; and he has been heard to declare, that, after deducting his expences for his admission to various preferments, and for his parsonage at Hatton, he had served three curacies, and done the duty of Hatton, *without clearing one shilling till the year 1789.* The fate, surely, of such a man is singular!

This year Doctor Parr became acquainted with Doctor Priestley.

“ My first interview with him,” says Doctor Parr, “ was at the house of a very sensible and most excellent man. Early in 1790, I resisted Doctor Priestley and his friends in their endeavour to procure a repeal of the Test Act. About a month or two after, Doctor Priestley and I met; and here begins a black catalogue of crimes, which have been long enveloped in darkness, but which I am now audacious enough to plant before legions of senseless and merciless calumniators in open day.

“ I knew that Doctor John Leland, of Ireland, lived upon terms of intimacy with many English prelates; that Archbishop Secker preserved his acquaintance with Doctor Chandler; that Doctor Johnson admitted the visits of Doctor Fordyce, and did not decline the company of Doctor Mayo. When I myself too lived at Norwich, Mr. Bourne, a dissent-
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ing teacher, not less eminent for the boldness of his opinions than for the depth of his researches, was very well received by the worthiest and most respectable clergymen of that city. I was therefore, and now am at a loss to see why a clergyman of the church of England should shun the presence of a dissenting minister, merely because they do not agree on doctrinal points, which have long divided the christian world; and, indeed, I have always found that when men of sense and virtue mingle in conversation, the harsh and confused suspicions which they entertained of each other give way to more just and more candid sentiments."*

Indeed it seems strange to us, that two men so active, so ingenious, and so learned, who, in spite of their differences in religion, possessed much moral worth, great philosophic knowledge, and literary attainment in common, should have lived five years within seventeen miles of each other without having met. A very few visits had been exchanged between them, when an event took place which never can be mentioned without disgrace to the national character.

"Animus meminisse horret, luctuque refugit."

The riots in Birmingham, which happened in 1791, will be remembered by the latest posterity, not more for the numerous and diffusive mischiefs

* Sequel to the printed paper lately circulated in Warwickshire, &c. Second edit. p. 98, 99.

which they occasioned, than for the meanness of spirit, blindness of rage, and intemperance of zeal, with which the mob attacked the peaceful abode of Doctor Priestley, and destroyed his library and apparatus. Europe has, in consequence, received that gentleman's farewell, and suffered a diminution of its philosophical importance.

Not content with wreaking their vengeance on Doctor Priestley, by burning his house, and plundering it of all that was most valuable to him, they resolved to extend their desolating ravages, and murderous designs, to every person in any degree connected with him. Hearing that Doctor Parr had been seen at the house of Doctor Priestley some months before, and wisely concluding that nothing less than a complete coincidence of opinion could have brought him thither, they threatened to bend their course towards Hatton, and burn his house and library also. Happily, an end was put to these horrible proceedings ere the mob could accomplish their purpose; but not till the Doctor had experienced the severest pangs for the fate of his family, and anticipated the irreparable loss of his books and manuscripts.*

* "Such, and such only," says the Doctor, speaking of the short intercourse that had subsisted between himself and Doctor Priestley, "has been my connection with him. And was it for this that, in a season of deep distress and dreadful danger, my principles were on a sudden gnawed at by vermin whisperers, and brutal reproaches? that my house was marked out for conflagration? that my family were for three days and three nights

It is well known that the pretext for these outrages was a meeting held by the Dissenters, on the 14th of July, 1791, in celebration of the French Revolution. In the spring of the year 1792, it was pretty generally reported that a party still remained, stubborn enough to meditate another commemoration upon the ensuing anniversary of that event—a step that might have brought destruction upon themselves and the whole town. This report soon reached the Doctor, who, on the 17th of May, began and finished in the same day his “Letter from Irenopolis to the Inhabitants of Eleutheropolis; or, a serious Address to the Dissenters of Birmingham: by a Member of the Established Church.” This extraordinary pamphlet, which contains forty octavo pages, rather closely printed, on no very large type, produced an advertisement from the Dissenters, in which, after professing their loyalty and attachment to the Sovereign, they disclaimed all knowledge of any design to meet again upon that occasion.

About the same time it was the Doctor's fate to be engaged in a dispute with the Rev. Charles Curtis, rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham. Delicacy for-

nights agitated with consternation and dismay? that my books, which I have long been collecting with indefatigable industry, upon which I have expended more than half the produce of more than twenty years unwearied labour, and which I considered as the pride of my youth, the employment of my riper age, and, perhaps, the best solace of declining life?—Was it for this, I say, that my books were exposed to most unmerited destruction?”—
Sequel, &c. Second edit. p. 103, 4.

bids

bids us to say any more of that unfortunate misunderstanding, than that it gave occasion for the Doctor's once more contributing to the stock of our national literature, by touching, in his own masterly way, on some of the most momentous topics in politics and religion.

Here we find that we owe a debt to truth, and we shall pay it. The anonymous author of "The Pursuits of Literature," of which work the very title is nonsense, with his usual confusion of statement, and facility of misrepresentation, has abused the Doctor for first printing a paper himself, and then publishing a sequel to it. Had that writer seen the title only of the pamphlet here alluded to, he would have found *that* to be perfectly intelligible—"A Sequel to the printed Paper lately circulated in Warwickshire by the Rev. Charles Curtis," &c. It would indeed have been ridiculous in any man *to print a paper in condemnation of himself, and then to publish a reply to it in his own justification.* But that bungling botcher of bad verse, and rancorous retailer of bad prose, has had his reward. The arm of criticism has been uplifted against him, and crushed him with weapons of stouter metal than his own. "We war not with the dead."

The dispute which gave birth to "the Sequel, &c." has long since happily terminated. The parties have not forgotten to what profession they belong. A proposal, handsomely made by the Doctor, was readily accepted by Mr. Curtis, and led to a reconciliation. Of this whole affair Doctor Parr himself
has

has written an account, with his accustomed accuracy and strength of feeling.*

In the year 1794 an event happened in the Doctor's family, which it would be unpardonable not to relate, as it must at once interest every fond parent, every kind preceptor, and every benevolent Christian.

If not one of the most forward in point of genius, at least one of the most promising of his pupils at Hatton, in sweetness of temper and propriety of conduct, was the only son of John Smitheman, Esq. This amiable youth was seized very suddenly, about the middle of March, with an alarming illness, and died in two or three days. The grief of his worthy tutor is thus described by one of the Doctor's friends :

" On Tuesday, 25th of March, 1794, I was sent for by the Doctor, who, the messenger told me, was in the deepest distress. I instantly repaired to Hatton, where I found, not only the master of the house, but the whole family, bathed in tears, and in a state of most dreadful agony. In short, any one might have thought that a darling child of their own had lain dead. The day was spent most sorrowfully.

" Early the next morning, after a messenger had been dispatched, to convey the melancholy tidings to the unsuspecting parents, I retired from the scene of affliction, having promised to return the same

* Reply to Dr. Combe.

evening. I came to Hatton again about sun-set. The Doctor had gone, during my absence, in search of comfort, to his friend and neighbour Lord Dormer's. Not long after my return he came home, and entered the library, where Mrs. Parr, her two daughters, and myself, were sitting at supper; he sat down, without speaking, by the fire, and sobbed like an infant.

"His attention, however, was soon called to the preparations necessary for the funeral, in the midst of which the wonted vigour of his mind returned, and he dictated to me one of the most pathetic and impressive funeral discourses that, perhaps, was ever written in any language. What follows will never be effaced from my memory.

"We were smoking our pipes together on the evening of the interment, when it was told the doctor that the coffin was about to be screwed down. He sat quietly for a few moments, and then hurried me along with him to the chamber where the body of the deceased lay. There, after taking a last view of the corpse, he ordered the whole house to assemble, and falling on his knees, while his grief seemed every moment as if it would choke his utterance, he burst forth into an extemporary prayer, so piously humble, so fervently devout, and so consummately eloquent, that it drew a torrent of tears from all present."

The funeral was conducted with great solemnity; and, in the chancel, over the grave, an elegant mural

ral monument has been since erected, with the following most elegant inscription.

A P Ω

Joanni. Smitheman

Qui. vix. Ann. xv. Mens. viii. Dieb.

Decessit. viii. Id. Mart. Anno. sacro

CIO. MDCLXXXIII.

Joannes. et. Margareta. Smitheman

Parentes. infelicissimi

Unico. et. charissimo. filio

Contra. Votum. posuerunt

Having scrupulously discharged these sacred duties, the Doctor sought for relief and consolation in his books, and in devising ornaments for his parish church. By a subscription among his former and present pupils, aided by a few friends, he had already contrived to embellish it with two fine chandeliers; and this year, a new east window, and one on each side of the chancel, were beautifully painted by Mr. Eggington. The subject of the largest of these is the crucifixion; and the manner in which it is executed excites great expectation, from the future improvements of that artist, in every beholder. Still some literary exertion was necessary to rouse his mind, and, fortunately for him, he had been engaged before this melancholy event in a laborious piece of criticism, which not being finished, he was now called upon to complete.

Early in 1793, the British Critic, a new review, had been offered to the public, and met with a favourable reception. The Doctor, from his acquaint-

ance

ance with one of the gentlemen who conducted that work, had been induced to lend it his assistance; and accordingly, in the beginning of this year, he entered upon an examination of Doctor Combe's Variorum edition of Horace, which had recently issued from the press. That work certainly derived no credit from the remarks of the reviewer, which were carried on through five numbers, and were distinguished by acuteness of punctuation, solidity of judgment, and depth of erudition. The editor was highly incensed at the critic, and, contrary to whatever we know to have been done before on any similar occasion, called upon him *by name* to retract his own assertions, and refute his own observations. Baffled in that attempt, Doctor Combe at length published a small pamphlet intitled "A Statement of Facts relative to the behaviour of Doctor Parr to the late Mr. H. Homer and Doctor Combe." In that hasty and petulant publication Doctor Parr was vehemently accused of breach of promise, violation of friendship, and even want of veracity. How well and how successfully he defended himself against those groundless charges, it will not soon be forgotten.

Doctor Parr, in his cool but very serious reply to the editor, has given the whole history of his connection with Mr. Homer, from its commencement to the death of that gentleman. Most interesting and satisfactory is that account, and we believe the Doctor's affection for his friend to have been most sincere, and the grief which he felt at his death most poignant.

poignant. Whether the *Variorum* Horace was first projected by Doctor Combe, or not, and whether Doctor Parr engaged to take any considerable share in it, or not, it is certain that Mr. Homer was to have been the principal conductor of that arduous undertaking, and probable, that the editor was indebted to him for whatever merit belongs to its execution.

In the year 1800, at the request of his worthy friend, Mr. Alderman Combe, then Lord Mayor, the Doctor preached the Spital sermon at Christ church, Newgate-street, on Easter Tuesday. This discourse did not make its appearance till the following year, owing to causes which the author has stated in an advertisement subjoined. In the performance he seems to have studiously avoided, as much as possible, the mention of utility as a measure of benevolence, and has taken care not to argue, or even slightly hint any thing in opposition to the principle. But he pursued his own plan of correcting the abuse of it by modern writers, and meant to explain and vindicate the dispensations of Providence, by shewing the motives which induce men to be benevolent, in their several situations, and the favourable result, both to general and particular happiness, where those motives were productive of correspondent actions. This is the latest of the Doctor's publications; and of all his other writings which preceded it, he has been heard to say, that his utmost profits fell rather short of forty pounds.

In the autumn of 1801, the Doctor's old and
much

much respected friend, Lord Chedworth, in the most generous manner, offered him a living in Wiltshire, and the Doctor has often expressed his concern that this unsolicited patronage was tendered to him under circumstances which prevented him from availing himself of it. The profits of the benefice were not sufficient to justify the resignation of Wadenhoe, with which it was incompatible from distance. But his feelings were abundantly gratified by the consent of Lord Chedworth to bestow it on a most enlightened and worthy friend of the Doctor's, who, beloved and respected by all who knew him, had lived to the age of fifty without a patron and without preferment.

The Doctor bestows the warmest praises of a grateful heart upon James Green, Esq. member of parliament for Arundel, by whose kind exertions he is perhaps preserved from want, at the age of fifty-five, after a life of incessant toil and intense study. It were perhaps indelicate to state the particular manner in which Mr. Green displayed the sincerity and ardour of his friendship, and in which other well-wishers of the Doctor have shewn their sense of his merits and his sufferings. With great and fixed aversion to extravagance, this ecclesiastic is a perfect stranger to the spirit of accumulation. He has laboured for others rather than for himself, and it is well known that no earthly consideration could ever induce him to swerve from his principles in politics or in religion. He has, indeed, in common with many other worthy men, been traduced as
a republican,

a republican, but he is, in truth, only a constitutional whig. He has been misrepresented as a heretic, but no man has examined more accurately, believes more firmly, or supports more strenuously, the great truths of Christianity. His writings and his preaching are decisive evidences of sincerity in his faith and of ardour in his piety. He always expresses, indeed, because he always feels, the strongest detestation of those disputants, who, on account of mere difference in opinion, stigmatize their opponents with opprobrious language; or harass them with a detail of invidious consequences, from premises which are obscure in speculation, or remotely connected with practice.

Perhaps the reader may wish to know in what manner the Doctor conducts his instructions from the pulpit. He has written many sermons: but in Middlesex, at Colchester, and at Norwich, he often preached extempore: and to those who are acquainted with him, it were unnecessary to say that the ardour of his temper, the fulness of his knowledge, and the strength of his understanding, always readily supplied him with matter pertinent, forcible, and abundant. He preached without any preparation whatsoever, and his custom was to select his subject from that which struck him in the lessons, epistle and gospel, or psalms for the day. There was always ^{on} method in these extemporaneous effusions. They were frequently accompanied with critical remarks; and they were delivered with an ear-

nestness of manner, and a correctness and vigour of diction most interesting to the hearers, and equal to the highest expectations which could be formed of his powers, by men most prejudiced in his favour and most accustomed to his conversation. At Hatton he generally takes up a sermon written by Clarke, Balguy, or Jortin, or some other distinguished divine of the established church. But his own observations are always introduced, and from the peculiarity of his thinking and his style, the difference is easily discerned by any intelligent hearer. Such, indeed, is his readiness, and such his copiousness, that of sermons which continue for half an hour or forty minutes, the parts which he merely reads scarcely occupy five or six pages. He has been heard to attribute this talent partly to the habit which he had formed, when a young man, of speaking with the late Sir William Jones and the present Bishop of Cloyne, in a fictitious character, upon various subjects of history, ethics, and politics; and partly to the necessity which had been imposed upon him, of communicating oral instruction in his schools. The same talent often appears with great lustre, when he throws out his thoughts upon any intricate and important topic in the presence of his friends. His views are most comprehensive, his arguments are most acute: his diction is correct without stiffness, and his imagery splendid without glare.

He has spent much of his time in reading the Latin inscriptions which are in Sponius, Fabretti, Gruter,

Gruter, Muratorius, and Reinesius; and he is known to hold in very high esteem the erudition and the taste of Musellus's work on the style of inscriptions. He has himself written many epitaphs for many friends in private life. He is well known to have composed that which is inscribed on the monument of Doctor Johnson at St. Paul's; and as he undertook the office of writing it with great reluctance, and on the express condition of being left to act according to his own judgment, he frequently and loudly complains of the unhandsome treatment which he received from some of Doctor Johnson's friends. After the death of Sir Joshua Reynolds a very long correspondence passed upon the occasion. The Doctor was several times on the point of withdrawing his inscription wholly; and indeed he certainly would have done so, but for the interposition of Sir William Scott, whose name he always pronounces with unusual veneration, and whom he is known to consider as one of the most distinguished characters in Europe for depth of understanding, accuracy of taste, and integrity of principle. The Doctor, in speaking of Johnson as a poet, had used the words "probabili poetæ," and had congratulated himself not merely upon the *propriety* but the *felicity* of the epithet: but neither the strength of his own conviction, nor the pertinent and recondite erudition with which he supported it by various passages from classical writers, were sufficient to overcome the prejudices of Johnson's admirers, who seem neither to

have understood the propriety, nor to have felt the beauty of the expression. The Doctor at length substituted a passage, which, however satisfactory to these gentlemen, and however splendid in itself, is supposed by the writer, and by the best critics, to mar the whole composition.

He also wrote, at the request of Lord Sheffield, an epitaph on Mr. Gibbon: and conscious of the danger to which an ecclesiastic must be exposed, in attempting to do justice to the literary and intellectual merits of that celebrated infidel, he called in the advice of his friends Mr. Fox and the learned Doctor Routh, upon his choice both of topics and of phrasology. He is said to have written with great effort, and with great success, a Latin epitaph on Mr. Burke, and to have declared that it shall never see the light.

The two inscriptions which we have produced, we made choice of, because they were written, the one in his earlier and the other in his riper years; because they afford specimens of very different and almost opposite styles; and because they serve to shew the real state of his feelings in the important relations both of pupil and of preceptor.

The Doctor has long since declined taking any more pupils. His friends are numerous, and among them the Rev. Mr. Maltby, now rector of Bugden, and chaplain to the bishop of Lincoln, formerly his pupil while at Norwich, is frequently mentioned by him in terms of the warmest affection and the highest

est applause. Their conversation and correspondence have been his principal solace and relief through many years of incessant toil. It has been long his custom, in various parts of the kingdom, to spend his holidays among them.

It has been in such a degree the Doctor's pride to improve and embellish his church, that the decorations may by some be deemed too gorgeous. All the windows, except those which are about the singing gallery, are now painted; and the pulpit cloth and the other furniture are most sumptuous and magnificent.

The library, which he himself built, on coming to reside at Hatton, is a large and well-proportioned room. But as it was no longer capable of holding all his books, many of them have a long time been distributed among other apartments. So voracious, indeed, and insatiable is his helluosity, that we doubt whether or not, if they continue to accumulate as they have hitherto done, the whole house may be ample enough to contain them. The Doctor has always been anxious to have it understood, that he never aspired to the praise of a collector, and that in his purchase of books he has been uniformly attentive to their use, rather than their rarity; and to the importance of their contents, rather than to the elegance of their binding and of their type. For the best editions of classical writers—for the most useful and learned works in philosophy, metaphysics and biblical criticism—for general taste in selection,

and wide range of literature, a more valuable collection has probably never been made by any single scholar, who was not a man of high rank or splendid fortune.

His manuscripts are said to be very numerous, and upon various subjects of verbal criticism, theology and metaphysics. But he has often declared, that they are not in a state fit for publication; that many of them are illegible even to himself; and that he has most peremptorily directed his executors to destroy them after his death, without distinction and even without inspection. In the earlier part of his life, he intended to publish an edition of Sophocles, and the matter prepared for that purpose had been the result of his enquiries for many years. It is written in four volumes octavo, interleaved, and three volumes quarto; all of which are crowded with observations. They contain not only explanations of particular words and phrases, but general remarks on the Greek drama; on the style and metre of Sophocles, as distinguished from those of *Æschylus* and *Euripides*; and of the causes, progress, and variations of the dialects employed by the Greek tragedians. This work, which has occupied so much of his time, he has long determined not to complete, and it is to be consigned to the flames.

So careful a guardian has the Doctor proved of the different bequests belonging to the poor of his parish at Hatton, that one of them has been tripled, after having been recovered from thirty-six years reputed loss.

loss. Another is made to produce clothes for the poor in two parishes*, nearly in a threefold proportion. Another, left for the decoration of the church, has been rescued from an inferior class of trustees, who formerly misapplied the revenue; and the revenue itself is increased in value, as well as employed to the purpose for which it was originally designed.

It is with great satisfaction that we can subjoin to our account of this excellent man, and profound scholar, a correspondence between him and Sir Francis Burdett, from which it will appear that a considerable addition to his comforts has been most liberally made by the worthy Baronet.

SIR,

"I am sorry that it is not in my power to place you in a situation which would become you—I mean in the Episcopal Palace at Buckden: but I can bring you very near to it; for I have the presentation to a rectory now vacant, within a mile and half of it, which is very much at Dr. Parr's service. It is the rectory of Graffham, at present worth two hundred pounds a-year, and, as I am informed, may soon be worth two hundred and seventy; and I this moment learn that the incumbent died last Tuesday.

"Dr. Parr's talents and character might well entitle him to a better patronage than this from those who know how to estimate his merits; but I acknowledge that a great additional motive with me to the offer I now make him, is, that I believe I cannot do any thing more pleasing to his friends, Mr. Fox, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Knight; and I desire you, Sir, to consider yourself obliged to them only,

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"With the greatest respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"FRANCIS BURDETT."

* Hatton is divided into three distinct parishes, each of which provides for its own poor.

*Vicarage House, Buckden,
Sept. 26, 1802.*

"DEAR SIR,

"AFTER rambling in various parts of Norfolk, I went to Cambridge, and from Cambridge I yesterday came to the parsonage of my most respectable friend, Mr. Maltby, at Buckden, where I this morning had the honour of receiving your letter. Mrs. Parr opened it last Friday at Hatton, and I trust that you will pardon the liberty she took in desiring your servant to convey it to me in Huntingdonshire, where she knew that I should be, as upon this day.

"Permit me, dear Sir, to request that you would accept the warmest and most sincere thanks of my heart for this unsolicited, but most honourable, expression of your good-will towards me. Nothing can be more important to my worldly interest than the service you have done me, in presenting me to the living of Graffham. Nothing can be more exquisitely gratifying to my very best feeling, than the language in which you have conveyed to me this mark of your friendship. Indeed, dear Sir, you have enabled me to pass the years of declining life in comfortable and honourable independence. You have given me additional and unalterable conviction, that the firmness with which I have adhered to my principles has obtained for me the approbation of wise and good men. And when that approbation assumes, as it now does, the form of protection, I fairly confess to you, that the patronage of Sir Francis Burdett has a right to be ranked among the proudest, as well as the happiest, events of my life. I trust that my future conduct will justify you in the disinterested and generous gift which you have bestowed upon me: and sure I am that my friends Mr. Fox, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Knight, will not only share with me in my joy, but sympathise with me in those sentiments of respect and gratitude which I shall ever feel towards Sir Francis Burdett.

"Most assuredly I shall myself set a higher value upon your kindness, when I consider it as intended to gratify the friendly feelings of those excellent men, as well as to promote my own personal happiness.

"I shall wait your pleasure about the presentation: and I beg leave to add, that I shall stay at Buckden for one week only, and shall have reached Hatton about this day fortnight, where I shall
obey.

obey your commands. One circumstance, I am sure, will give you great satisfaction, and therefore I shall beg leave to state it. The living of Graffham will be of infinite value to me, because it is tenable with a rectory I now have in Northamptonshire; and happy I am, that my future residence will be fixed, and my existence closed, upon that spot where Sir Francis Burdett has given me the power of spending my old age with comforts and conveniences quite equal to the extent of my fondest wishes, and far surpassing any expectations I have hitherto ventured to indulge.

"I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect and most unfeigned thankfulness, dear Sir,

"Your very obedient faithful Servant,

S. PARR."

About the year 1771 the Doctor married Miss Marsingale, a lady of uncommon sagacity and penetration, by whom he has had several children. Two daughters only are living: the eldest, whose splendor of genius, readiness of elocution, variety of knowledge, and facility in composition, are worthy the daughter of such a father, was, a few years ago, married to the eldest son of Colonel Wynne. The youngest, who, by sweetness of temper, by goodness of heart, by sense without affectation, and by wit without ill-nature, is justly endeared to her parents and her friends, is still unmarried.

To do justice to the character of such a man as Dr. Samuel Parr; to mark the extent of his erudition; to describe the force of his eloquence; to show the vast magnitude of his genius; but, above all, to praise his virtues as they deserve, is a task from which we shrink with dismay.

Ὅτι γὰρ πᾶσι θεοὶ φαίνονται ἱεραγεῖς.*

* Vide Homer. Odyss. ii. l. 161.

We indùlge, however, the hope that some biographer may hereafter arise, possessed of talents sufficient to appreciate his merits, and of honesty enough to report them with fidelity. Meanwhile, we venture to lay before the candid reader, the following very imperfect sketch.

He is a warm friend, a kind neighbour, and a most tender parent.

As a preceptor, his diligence was unwearied. His strictness in discipline was always so tempered with liberality, that no teacher ever was more fortunate in impressing his scholars with sentiments of fear, esteem, affection, and unlimited confidence.

As a parish priest his conduct is meritorious and most exemplary. In the performance of the duties prescribed by the rubric he is scrupulously exact, and in the promotion of concord and amity among his flock, he is zealous and active.

As a theist he is devout, but with no mixture of superstition or fanaticism. As a philosopher he is profound without singularity; and as a teacher of the established church, he is zealous without bigotry, and orthodox without intolerance.

The following is a correct list of the Doctor's publications, in the order in which they came out.

Two Sermons.

A Discourse on the late Fast. By Philoleutheros Norfolciensis.

A Discourse on Education. In two Parts.

Præfatio III Lib. Gul. Bellendeni de Statu.

Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian, &c.

A Sequel

A Sequel to the printed paper lately circulated in Warwickshire, &c.

A Reply to Doctor Coombe's pamphlet.

A Spital Sermon, preached at Christ Church.

Besides these the Doctor has occasionally contributed to the different reviews. One performance, being of a local nature, and very few copies of it printed, we are not at liberty to mention : though we have always regarded it as one of the finest effusions of his genius. Of the assistance which he has given to literary friends, more has already been made known to the public than he approved ; but very little in proportion to that, of which the public will probably know nothing.

DR. CHARLES HUTTON, F.R.S.

THIS extraordinary person is a member of several learned academies in Europe and America, and is the present professor of mathematics at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich ; having adorned that chair for upwards of twenty-six years, and having greatly contributed, by his industry and judgment, to raise the course of education at that seminary to the most distinguished degree of credit and usefulness.

That the greatest characters often emerge, by the force and energy of individual powers, from low and obscure origin, is a fact which, perhaps, has never been more strikingly illustrated than in the instance
of

of this gentleman, whose abilities and application have raised him to a most respectable eminence in society.

Dr. Hutton is a native of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in Northumberland, where he was born about the year 1737, of parents, who, though among the lower ranks in life, were always respectable.

At an early age he was sent to a school in his native town, where he soon made a rapid progress in the first rudiments of education, being always the foremost in his classes. In consequence of his apparent abilities, his parents were persuaded by their neighbours to continue this, their youngest son, whom they considered as the hopes of the family, at country-schools in the vicinity of Newcastle, till he arrived at near the age of manhood, while his elder brothers were sent to laborious employments.

He accordingly acquired all the little learning to be obtained at such village-schools, consisting of reading, writing, and accounts, with a little Latin, and the rudiments of practical geometry, mensuration, surveying, &c. Having always manifested, from the earliest stage of infancy, an uncommon docility and simplicity of manners, these endearing qualities rendered Charles Hutton, at all times, the wonder and favourite of his acquaintance.

In this manner his early youth passed away, till the loss of his parents compelled him think of some sort of employment for subsistence; and, being without any regular occupation, he commenced country-school-

schoolmaster about the eighteenth year of his age: a line of life in which he has continued ever since, in various places, with the most ample success.

His first establishment was at the village of Jesmond, about two miles from Newcastle, where he remained a few years, instructing the children of that neighbourhood, and improving himself by close study: he eagerly read all the mathematical and other books he could purchase with the savings out of his little income, by which means he found his mind and powers gradually opened, his knowledge considerably extended, and his ardent love for the mathematics, and knowledge in general, much increased.

In such pursuits his exertions were greatly stimulated, and his little stock of knowledge increased, by solving the questions in that most useful almanac, the Ladies' Diary; a little work, which, though seemingly mean and insignificant, has been the occasion of rearing more mathematicians in this country than half the books professedly written on the subject; a benefit which his gratitude has amply repaid, by his annual labours for that little book, during an uninterrupted succession of more than forty years; by which the work has been raised to the highest respectability among the mathematicians of this country.

During the few years of his residence at this place, he became, for a time, a close and zealous follower of the Methodists, and at length ventured to write sermons, and even to preach among them. From his earliest infancy Mr. H. had always been of a disposition

tion at once serious, sincere, affectionate and devout. Even when a boy of only ten or twelve years, by reading some old devotional tracts, (for he eagerly devoured all sorts of books that fell in his way) he wrought himself up to such a pitch of enthusiasm, that, among other acts of devotion, he formed a little retired arbour in a wood, through which the path lay in his way to school, that he might step aside to pray in it, for a few minutes, as he passed to and from school.

About this time he made a considerable sacrifice to the sincerity of this disposition, by destroying all the ballads and popular little books of tales and stories usually read at a tender age; a sacrifice the more extraordinary, as he had gathered together a great number of them, at the expence of all the money that had been given him from time to time; the practice of collecting a mass of what he considered as curious books having been a predominant passion with him through all the stages and changes of his life. It was never sufficient for him to read a book, and then part with it again; but it was necessary that he should possess it as his own, and add it to his collection, to refer to on any occasion.

His devotional temper of mind never entirely quitted him till he removed into the town of Newcastle, where he gradually declined his connection with the Methodists.

This removal was about the year 1760. By perseverance in study and reading, Mr. H. had acquired, as he thought, a stock of scientific knowledge and experience in his profession, too good for the obscure village

village and little country circuit in which he shone, with superior credit among others of his profession; and consequently he removed to the rich metropolis of a large district, where he hoped to be better rewarded for his labours, by instructing the children of the more opulent inhabitants in the higher branches of their education: a plan in which he perfectly succeeded, in opposition to the numerous and powerful extraneous difficulties which impeded his schemes.

His name was unknown in the town, having made acquaintance only with two or three booksellers and schoolmasters, the latter of whom were more ready to oppose than to favour his endeavours. His determination of teaching only the higher branches of education, and resolutely rejecting the lower, formed new and unusual obstacles to success, by diminishing the chance for pupils, and introducing a novelty in the profession of schoolmasters with which the people were but little acquainted. Another obstacle was, that he demanded more than double the sum that had usually been paid in that town for similar branches of education; a demand which withheld many pupils from his school. A hasty and unhappy marriage, which he entered into at the very time of his removal, crowned the difficulties of this period of his life.

From these and other causes, it happened that it was some time before Mr. H. obtained much employment, struggling with adversity and the charges of an increasing family; distresses which were also accompanied with the disappointment of his

his expectations of domestic comfort from his matrimonial connection : forming altogether such a weight of misery as would have driven a mind of less integrity and fortitude to desperation.

By means, however, of perseverance in good conduct, and a due cultivation and improvement of his talents, he at length triumphed over these difficulties ; and in the course of thirteen years' residence at Newcastle, maintained his family in a style of comfort and credit, and added very considerably to his library of mathematical and philosophical books.

In the mathematical sciences Mr. H. made rapid advances, of which he gave many extraordinary and public proofs, both by publications of his own, and by the solution of several curious and difficult questions in various periodical publications, especially the mathematical questions in the Ladies' Diary, in his own name, and in Martin's Magazine of Sciences, under the signature *Tonthu*, being the letters of his name transposed.

The first of Mr. H.'s separate publications was the little book on Arithmetic, for the use of schools, first printed at Newcastle in the year 1764, a work which has met with so much approbation, that ten very large editions have been already published. In printing the first edition, to supply the want of proper mathematical types in so distant a provincial town as Newcastle, Mr. H. was obliged, with his own hand, to cut with a pen-knife, on the reversed end of old types, many of the algebraical characters that were used in the vulgar fractions and other parts of the work.

Mr.

Mr. H. next occupied his evenings in composing a large work on Mensuration, which came out in numbers, of a quarto form, the last of them in the year 1770: it was printed at Newcastle. This was a very extensive work, consisting of 700 quarto pages, on mensurations of all kinds, both theoretical, and practical, on a plan and to an extent far exceeding any thing of the name or kind that had ever before appeared: indeed so high had the author's character risen in the public esteem, that more than a thousand subscribers were found to encourage the publication. The public esteem and expectation were not forfeited or disappointed in this work; which exhibited extraordinary traits of genius, industry, and acquaintance with the best of the more antient authors. A second edition of this work, with improvements, was published at London in the year 1788, in a large octavo form.

The active mind of Mr. H. soon produced another specimen of his genius and industry, in a republication of all the useful parts of the Ladies' Diaries, from the beginning of that favourite almanac, in the year 1704, to that of the year 1773. This edition was published in parts, or numbers, quarterly, beginning in July 1771, and ending in July 1775; forming a collection of five volumes, viz. two volumes of the poetical, and three volumes of the mathematical, parts of the Diaries. These extracts were accompanied with large and numerous notes, supplying all defects in the original solution of the questions, &c, by means of curious constructions, calculations, and
1799-1800. I demonstration,

demonstrations. Each number was also accompanied by a few sheets of a new mathematical correspondence, of original essays, questions, &c. making up one volume, in which the contributions of our author himself made a considerable portion, but under several fictitious names.

About the years 1771 and 1772, Mr. H. was employed by the magistrates of Newcastle, as the most proper person in that place to make an accurate survey of the town and county of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; a tract of many miles in circuit, and a town, which, from the crookedness of the streets and the unevenness of the ground, is perhaps the most difficult of all the towns in the island to measure. Of this tract he made a most accurate survey and plan, which was soon after engraved and published, in a map consisting of two very large sheets of paper, containing also a neat abridged account of the history, trade, and population, of that place.

Although Mr. H. had both these works in hand at the same time, namely, the survey and plan of Newcastle, and the Diarian Miscellany, he encountered another, not inconsiderable, work, which was rather of a temporary nature, occasioned by the sudden fall of Newcastle old bridge, which was borne down the 17th of November 1771, by a very high flood, which raised the waters in the river about nine feet higher than the usual spring-tides.

This accident having given rise to many absurd notions among the people concerning arches and bridges, Mr. H. thought that the demonstration of the

the relations between the more essential parts of a bridge would not be unprofitable to such architects and builders as might be inclined and capable of attending to the theory of arches. In consequence of such reflections, in the space of two or three months he composed, and published at Newcastle, a very learned and useful little book on the subject of arches, intitled "The Principles of Bridges; containing the mathematical Demonstrations of the Properties of the Arches, the Thickness of the Piers, the Force of the Water against them, &c. with practical Observations and Directions drawn from the whole," in octavo, 1772. Although this work was produced with such rapidity, that his most intimate friends could hardly perceive it was begun, when it was already finished, in the midst of other public labours, it has not failed to give the most general satisfaction to architects and engineers. This tract having been many years out of print, Doctor H. was induced to present a new edition of it to the public, in consequence of having been consulted upon the project of a new bridge for the improvement of the port of London. This edition, as the Doctor thought, was very illiberally and unfairly attacked in the Monthly Review for March, 1802; and he has, in consequence, written a very able reply to the Reviewer, which appeared in the Monthly Magazine for August, 1802.

It is remarkable, that the printing of the foregoing works at Newcastle, viz. the Mensuration, the Bridges, and the Diarian Miscellany, happily proved the occasion of rearing and bringing to public notice

the most excellent wood engraver or cutter that the world has perhaps beheld, in the person of the ingenious Mr. BEWICK, of Newcastle, so much admired for his elegant execution in wood.

There was no artist at that time in Newcastle professedly capable of engraving in wood the necessary figures for these books; there was, however, a very ingenious young man, Mr. Ralph Beilby, a seal-engraver, who, assisted by Mr. H. produced such excellent specimens in these works, that the Bishop of Norwich employed him, in consequence, to execute the engravings for his complete edition of Newton's Works.

So great a quantity of business of this kind, both for the works of Newton and in Mr. H.'s three books before-mentioned, gave occasion to Mr. Beilby to unite with himself, in the execution of them, his pupil and assistant, Mr. Bewick, who has risen to such perfection in that art, as to excite the wonder of every one who has viewed his performances.

About this period the health of Mr. John Lodge Cowley (the Professor of Mathematics at Woolwich) having so much declined, that he could no longer attend the duties of his office, the Master-General and principal officers of the Board of Ordnance came to the resolution of permitting him to retire. When this intention became known, the Master-General, Lord Townshend, was assailed on all sides by applications to succeed him: but his lordship, highly to the honour of his judgment and honesty, declared that he would not yield to any solicitations of interest,

terest, but that the place should be filled by the candidate who should best acquit himself, on a general examination of all the competitors, to be held at a time appointed, by four of the most learned and skilful persons that could be found, viz. the Rev. Dr. HORSLEY (the present bishop of St. Asaph), the Rev. Dr. MASKELYNE (astronomer royal), Colonel WATSON (chief engineer in the India Company's service), and Mr. LANDEN, a most able mathematician.

By mere chance this resolution became known to Mr. H. at Newcastle; who, without a particle of interest with the great, and without being at all known to any one in London, unless, perhaps, it might be by name, to some of the examiners, being conscious of his own powers, on which he solely relied, presently repaired to the capital, from a distance of near three hundred miles, to present himself a candidate for examination. At the time appointed, all the competitors, six or eight in number, attended the Board of Examiners, by whom they were all separately examined, to prevent any one from taking advantage of the examination of the others. Indeed nothing could be fairer, nor apparently more impartial on the part of the examiners, nor could any examination be better conducted to answer completely the good and wise intentions of his lordship, the master-general. Every candidate was closely questioned in the several branches of the mathematical sciences; concerning their principles and properties; the knowledge and choice of books

and authors, both ancient and modern ; the various and best modes of teaching those sciences ; with every other requisite that seemed necessary in the qualification for such an office. This examination occupied the whole day till late in the evening ; at the conclusion of which, the examiners delivered to each candidate a large collection of very difficult problems, in the more abstruse parts of the mathematical and philosophical sciences ; requesting their attendance again at the end of a week, to produce such solutions to those problems as they might be able to make out.

They met again accordingly ; and, though all his competitors were in a manner at home among their friends, and in the midst of their books, to assist them in making out solutions to the problems ; advantages of which Mr. H. was debarred by his peculiar situation ; yet his knowledge and talents triumphed over all difficulties, and even over the private partiality which more than one of the examiners entertained for some of the candidates, as their acquaintances, and for whom they had made interest, by recommendation, before the appointing of an examination. For, at the conclusion, the Board of Examiners drew up, and united in a report of their proceedings to the master-general and board-officers, stating, that, though most of the candidates were sufficiently well qualified for discharging the duties of the office which was the object of their competition ; yet there was one among them, a Mr. Charles Hutton, whom they found it their duty, in a more particular

particular manner, to recommend to his lordship's notice for that purpose; on account of the very able manner in which he had answered all the questions of the examiners, and on account of his very extensive reading and knowledge.

In consequence, a very few days after, Mr. H. received at his lodgings a notice of his appointment to the office from the master-general, who had never seen Mr. H. nor so much as ever heard of his name before the present occasion. The wisdom of his lordship's conduct in this appointment has been fully manifested by the success of the experiment; by the very extraordinary credit of that branch of education at the academy; by the great number of excellent officers Mr. H. has qualified; by the very punctual and regular attendance he always gives to the duties of his office; by the importance of the extra-services he has rendered, in making numerous experiments for the improvement of gunnery, and by the books he has composed and printed for the use of the academy; and, finally, by the entire approbation of his Majesty and the governors of the academy, so often expressed on many occasions; whose confidence in his judgment and integrity has been farther implied by desiring him successively to nominate and recommend the other two mathematical masters employed in the academy, a circumstance to which was owing the appointment of those two able masters Mr. Bonnycastle and Mr. Evans.

Mr. H.'s settlement at the Royal Military Academy proved an important æra, not only to himself

and the academy, but also to the sciences in this country. His new situation, near the metropolis, gave him better opportunities of consulting and collecting the most curious books on his peculiar branch of study, of which it seems he has made one of the best collections that have been known in this country. That situation, too, and the credit of the extraordinary mode of his appointment at Woolwich, gave him happy opportunities of becoming acquainted with many of the first scientific characters in this country, as well as in other parts of Europe; from whose conversations and correspondence he was enabled to reap fresh supplies of knowledge; and with some of the ablest and most virtuous of whom he has ever since continued on the best terms of friendly communication.

In consequence of the advantage of his new situation, too, soon after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. beside his daily labour in the academy, set about, with great alacrity, a new and severe course of study of all the best books of science, as he procured them; with the view of better qualifying himself for the execution of certain works, which he had projected.

The first publication undertaken by him, after that period, was the compilation of that ingenious and favourite little work, the Ladies' Diary, to which he had for many years before been so creditable a contributor. At the moment of his arrival in London, on the business of the academy at Woolwich, he was informed of the death of the last compiler; and, a few days afterward, the future care of it was confided

sided to his judgment and industry, by the Stationers' Company, with increased emoluments; a trust which he has ever since that time carefully discharged, by which the work has been raised to the highest degree of credit, and more than doubled the number of its annual contributors. As a testimony of their satisfaction the Company have, at different times, entrusted him with the care and composition of other works, beside accepting his recommendation of suitable persons in the compilation of other of their publications.

For several years, immediately after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. employed part of his time in writing accounts of mathematical and philosophical books, for the periodical reviews, published monthly in London. And, when his other avocations would no longer admit of his continuing such critiques, his recommendation of other persons to succeed him in that department was thankfully acknowledged by the proprietors.

The same year that Mr. H. removed to Woolwich, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, being introduced to that honour by some respectable members, before their kind and honourable intentions were known to himself: and how well their expectations of his usefulness to the Society have been realized has been abundantly manifested by his numerous and valuable communications of papers printed in the Philosophical Transactions.

The first of these was, "A New and General Method of finding simple and quickly-converging Series,

Series, by which the Proportion of the Diameter of a Circle to its Circumference may easily be computed to a great Number of Figures :” printed in the Transactions for 1776. And the second was, “A Demonstration of two remarkable Theorems mentioned in a former Article of the Transactions ;” also published in the same year 1776.

The next was a large and very important communication, in the year 1778, entitled, “The Force of fired Gunpowder, and the Initial Velocities of Cannon-Balls, determined by Experiments; from which is also deduced the Relation of the Initial Velocity to the Weight of the Shot and the Quantity of the Charge of Powder.” This paper contains the account and calculation of a great number of curious experiments, with cannon-balls, made at Woolwich, in the year 1775, by himself and other ingenious gentlemen; and so sensible was the Society of the value of this communication, that Mr. H. was honoured with the prize-medal of that year; the delivery of which to him, at the conclusion of an excellent discourse on that occasion, was the last act of Sir John Pringle’s administration as president of the Society: a situation from which it was said he had been induced to withdraw in disgust, on account of ill-treatment in his office. At the same time also, Dr. HORSLEY resigning his office of secretary to the Society, Mr. H. became a candidate to succeed him; but which, on account of the particular situation of his competitor, Mr. Maty, and his family, was given to the latter. On this occasion, however, the Society

ciety elected Mr. H. one of the council, and also conferred on him the office of Latin Secretary, for conducting the foreign correspondence, vacated by the election of Mr. Maty to the reading secretaryship. The many excellent translations of foreign communications from the Latin, French, and Italian languages, printed in the Transactions, in the several following years, till 1784, are so many proofs of his zeal and ability.

In the transactions of the same year appeared "An Account of the Calculations made from the Survey and Measures taken at Schehallien, in order to ascertain the mean Density of the Earth." The determination of the mean density of the earth was an important problem instituted by the Society; and the survey and measurements, for that purpose, were taken at and about the hill Schehallien, in Perthshire, in the years 1774, 1775, 1776, by the direction, and partly under the inspection of Dr. Maskelyne, the astronomer royal: after which, the Society confided to Mr. H. the important office of making the calculations, and drawing the proper deductions from them. This was a very laborious work, requiring many thousand calculations, which were completed in the space of one year. It was also of great importance in itself, as affording one of the best proofs of the general attraction of matter; and, besides great accuracy in the calculation, it was necessary that the operator should possess a more than ordinary portion of genius and address to manage so delicate and novel a business; and perhaps the Society

ciety could hardly have discovered another person possessing the requisite qualifications in so eminent a degree. Indeed the conclusion of this work fully justified the Society's choice, the operation doing equal honour to the Society and to the computer. In the result, Mr. H. found that the mean density of the earth was in proportion to that of the hill Schehallien, as 9 is to 5; so that, whenever the actual density of the hill shall be ascertained (which it seems consists of a solid mass of the hardest stone) from thence the real density of the earth, in respect of stone, or of water, will also easily follow.

The year following Dr. Hutton contributed another paper, intended as a supplement to the foregoing one, containing "Calculations to determine at what point in the Side of a Hill its Attraction will be the greatest;" a desideratum very useful in such a problem, as the deviation of the plumb-line, by the attraction of the hill, is but small in any case.

The next communication, which was in the year 1780, was a very long tract on cubic equations and infinite series; in which the subject of those equations seems to be exhausted.

The next, in the year 1783, was a "Project for a new Division of the Quadrant." This is a project for adopting or calculating new tables of sines, tangents, and secants, to equal parts of the radius, instead of to those of the quadrant; in which way, the numbers in the column of arcs will denote the real lengths of the arcs, instead of the arbitrary division of 60ths, or degrees and minutes.

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This was the last of Dr. H.'s communications to the Society; as it seems a stop was put to his usefulness in that way, by what was deemed a cruel act of oppression in the new president, which it seemed grew out of the following circumstances.

The adjudication of the prize-medal to Dr. H.'s paper, before-mentioned, on the force of fired gunpowder, had necessarily produced a friendly intercourse between him and the president, Sir John Pringle. While this learned veteran was drawing up the curious paper containing the speech he was to pronounce on delivering the medal to Dr. H. an intercourse took place, which produced a mutual friendship and confidence, which ended only with the death of Sir John. This circumstance, with that of his not paying sufficient court to the new president (a practice at all times hostile to Dr. H.'s natural disposition), it was alledged by his friends, produced a jealousy and dislike against him, and at length a determination of removing Dr. H. from his office of foreign secretary. For this purpose, it seems, the president procured a resolution of council, "that it was expedient for the foreign secretary to reside constantly in London." Dr. H. conceiving himself to have been affronted by this resolution of the council, went to the Society, and resigned his place, in a speech, which, though couched in modest words, and apparently conveying no more than an ordinary resignation, strongly spoke the language of injured merit.

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cumstances of malversation in his office, the conduct of the president was loudly arraigned by Doctor Horsley, and other friends of Doctor Hutton, in some violent debates; which at length concluded with the resignation of the secretaryship by Mr. Maty, and the secession of a number of the learned members. These proceedings took place in 1784; and accounts of them were given in several pamphlets published at the same time.

Soon after this, viz. in 1786, Dr. H. published a volume of mathematical and philosophical tracts, in 4to, containing a number of curious papers, which would probably have appeared in the volumes of the Philosophical Transactions, had not the foregoing proceedings taken place in the Society. Among these tracts, which are all of them curious and original, is a long one of near 200 pages, of great importance to the public utility of the nation. It consists of "New Experiments in Artillery; for determining the Force of fired Gunpowder; the Initial Velocity of Cannon-Balls; the Ranges of Pieces of Cannon at different Elevations; the Resistance of the Air to Projectiles; the Effect of different lengths of Cannon; and of different quantities of Powder, &c. &c." These valuable experiments were the result of the employment of the years 1783, 1784, 1785; and the account of them is accompanied with calculations, and followed by deductions of the highest importance.

Beside these works, the active and patient mind of Dr. H. has produced several other useful and ingenious

nious publications. As, first, in 1781, in a folio volume, "Tables of the Products and Powers of Numbers, published by order of the Commissioners of Longitude." A very curious work, of immense labour and calculation, which, it has been said, was chiefly owing to the industry of his present wife, a lady of extraordinary learning, talents, and goodness, who, it seems, has also assisted him on some other occasions of laborious calculations.

Secondly, in 1785, "Mathematical Tables; containing the common, hyperbolic, and logistic, Logarithms; also Sines, Tangents, Secants, and Versed Sines, both natural and logarithmic; with several other Tables useful in mathematical calculations: to which is prefixed, a large and original History of the Discoveries and Writings relating to those Subjects." A history which must have cost many years painful toil in reading different books, and collecting materials, and to describe in detail their contents, the inventions, and improvements, contained in such a number of scarce and curious books, in all languages. A second edition was printed in 1794.

In 1786, "The compendious Measurer; being a brief yet comprehensive Treatise on Mensuration and practical Geometry; with an Introduction to decimal and duodecimal Arithmetic; adapted to Practice and the Use of Schools." This is chiefly an abridgment of his large work on Mensuration, and has since gone through several other editions.

In 1787, in one volume 8vo. "Elements of conic Sections, with select Exercises in various Branches of Mathematics

Mathematics and Philosophy, for the Use of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." This volume, which consists chiefly of practical exercises for the use of the cadets at the Academy, was ordered to be printed by the Duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance; on which occasion Dr. H. had the honour to be presented to the King, and to kiss his Majesty's hand.

In 1796 came out, in two large volumes in 4to. Dr. H.'s "Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary; a work which is replete with curious and original matter. We have heard it said, and can believe it, that one article of this work alone, viz. the ALGEBRA, occupied no less than two years of the author's time in reading all the treatises on the same subject to collect the materials, and to arrange them.

In 1798 appeared the last of Dr. Hutton's publications, being "A new Course of Mathematics, in two volumes, composed, and more especially designed, for the Use of the Gentlemen Cadets in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." A work in which he has condensed into two octavo volumes of a middling size, a vast body and variety of useful matter; and though mostly on the elementary sciences, treated in a novel manner, with great neatness, precision, and even elegance.

In 1779 our author had the honour to be presented with a diploma, constituting him Doctor of Laws, by the University of Edinburgh; and he has since been elected honorary member of several learned academies, both in Europe and America.

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It is honourable to Dr. Hutton; that by his economy the fruits of his own labours have enabled him to realize a comfortable independence, in a neat little freehold farm which he has bought; upon which he has built several neat houses, and which he cultivates in such a style, for his amusement, that he may be said to have reared a village, and planted a garden in the wilderness. This pursuit proves the versatility and extent of his genius; as well as another, which is seemingly still farther removed from the nature of his own profession, namely, a manufacture of bricks and tiles, which he carried on to some extent for several years, by the materials dug out of the ground on his own estate, till he was disgusted with the business by the villany of the workmen he was obliged to employ. In this way, in the short space of four or five years, he made more improvements, and produced more curious specimens of the trade, than many manufacturers that have been engaged their whole life in the business.

Notwithstanding such extraordinary exertions and labour of body and mind, for so long a series of years, we are glad to observe, that Dr. H. still enjoys a very uncommon share of health and activity; from which we may reasonably expect to see still more of his very useful public labours. It is, however, said, he has never ceased to lament the loss of his youngest daughter, a very amiable young lady, at the age of sixteen, in the year 1794, of whose brilliant talents and accomplishments some account was given in the Gentleman's Magazine, in the month of October

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that year; since which, it seems, he has unhappily never quite recovered his wonted spirits and liveliness.

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LORD HAWKESBURY.

THE Right Honourable Robert Banks Jenkinson, son of the Earl of Liverpool and of Miss Watts, (daughter of Governor Watts of Bengal), who died a few months after his birth, was born the 7th of June 1770.

He was placed, at a very early age, at the academy of Parson's Green, near Fulham, where he remained until he entered his thirteenth year. The noble Earl, his father, who had himself experienced the benefits resulting from the system of education adopted at the Charter-House, then removed him to that excellent institution, in which he continued for two years. His improvement in classical learning, during that period, was considerable; and his progress in literature was frequently exemplified, not only by correct and elegant translations from the Greek and Latin authors, but by several original compositions, which were allowed to evince taste and judgment, and are still preserved by one of his school-fellows.

A very short interval took place between his leaving the Charter-House and his entering the college of Christ Church, Oxford; and that interval was employed in a manner the most likely to prove advantageous to his prospects and interests in life. His father,

father, perfectly satisfied with the result of his scholastic pursuits, thought it necessary to direct his application to objects of a more important nature, and traced out for him a line of study, adapted to qualify him for those high situations in the state which he now fills, and to which he was already destined by parental fondness. He was furnished with a catalogue of the most approved writers on the different branches of public economy, and the perusal of them was earnestly recommended to him in the course of his collegiate exercises. Thus happily directed, and implicitly following the instructions of one who was deeply versed in the accomplishments necessary to form, if not an eminent, at least an useful statesman, he left the university with a greater knowledge of commerce, manufactures, and finance, than some of the learned professors, whose lectures on ethics, natural philosophy, and mathematics, he had attended.

His Lordship soon after visited France, and was at Paris during the demolition of the Bastile, and several other important transactions which took place in the commencement of the revolution. While he resided in that capital, he was indefatigable in acquiring a correct knowledge of the characters and views of the leading men in the interest of the court, and of those who, by their eminent talents or political intrigues, had obtained popularity. His communications, on a subject so materially interesting to this country, proved highly satisfactory to the British ministry, and furnished the *premier* with a very fa-

vourable instance of his Lordship's industry and discrimination.

On his return to England he was elected, in 1790, member for the borough of Rye, in Sussex; but, not having attained his one-and-twentieth year, he passed the intermediate time in a tour on the Continent, and took his seat in the House of Commons in the year 1791.

Early in the following year of the same session, the Russian armament, as it was called, supplied the Opposition members with an opportunity of censuring Administration; and the conduct of his Majesty's ministers, with respect to the war between the Empress of Russia and the Ottoman Porte, became the subject of parliamentary debate. Mr. Whitbread, supported on that occasion by the whole strength of Opposition, brought forward the following motions:

"1st. That no arrangement, respecting Oczakow and its district, appears to have been capable of affecting the political or commercial interests of this country, so as to justify any hostile interference on the part of Great Britain between Russia and the Porte.

"2d. That the interference of Great Britain, for the purpose of preventing the cession of the said fortress and its district to the Empress of Russia, has been wholly unsuccessful.

"3d. That his Majesty's ministers, in endeavouring, by means of an armed force, to compel the Empress of Russia to abandon her claim to Oczakow and its district, and in continuing an armament, after the object for which it was proposed had been relinquished, have been guilty of gross misconduct, tending to incur unnecessary expences, and to diminish the influence of the British nation in Europe."

Lord Hawkesbury, then Mr. Jenkinson, rose early

in the debate, and, in his maiden speech, combated the resolutions with a force of argument and a perspicuity of language that evinced a profound knowledge of the question under consideration, and afforded favourable grounds to believe that he would at some future period become a distinguished parliamentary speaker. He peculiarly called the attention of the House to the dangers which threatened Prussia from the progress of the Imperial arms, and displayed a correct idea of the balance of power in conformity to the state of Europe, as it was then generally admitted, but which has since been materially altered by those extraordinary vicissitudes that baffle the projects of human wisdom, and expose the vanity of assuming fixed principles in political calculation.

Mr. Jenkinson was appointed one of the commissioners for India affairs on the 22d of June 1793; and the activity with which he performed the duties of that important office, fully justified the choice of government. In May 1794, he received his Majesty's commission to command the cavalry fencible corps of the Cinque Ports, with the rank of colonel in the army; and, in 1796, he was re-elected for Rye. On the promotion of Sir George Yonge, from the mastership of the Mint to the government of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, Lord Hawkesbury was, without any solicitation in his favour, nominated to that employment, sworn of his Majesty's most honourable Privy-Council, and appointed one of the Lords of the Committee for

Trade and foreign Plantations. Upon the change of ministry in the year 1801, Lord Hawkesbury was appointed Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the room of Lord Grenville. His Lordship is married to one of the daughters of the Earl of Bristol, Bishop of Derry in Ireland.

His claims to notice as a public character are of a substantial nature. His mind is stored with the most useful acquisitions; and, though capable of engaging with success in the pursuit of abstract knowledge, or in metaphysical disquisition, he has wisely applied his faculties to the cultivation of that kind of information, the theory of which, being derived from experience, generally leads to unequivocal and permanent advantages.

In the principles of legislation, the *jus gentium*, and the *arcana* of the *corps diplomatique*, his proficiency is considerable; but he chiefly excels in a knowledge of the commerce and manufactures of his country, both in their domestic state and their foreign operation.

As a parliamentary speaker, he maintains a respectable rank. His speeches are not indeed distinguished for

“ Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn ;”

but his matter and manner are never trifling. His elocution is clear and correct, and his arguments are frequently enforced in an animated and impressive style. He certainly has not justified, by subsequent exertions, the opinion of his oratorical powers which his first speech impressed upon the public mind; but

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an unguarded expression often depresses the confidence of the person who has used it, and discourages a bold display of talents, that might otherwise have equalled the most sanguine expectations.

"*The march to Paris*," uttered in the intoxicating moment of success, dwindled into ridicule, when its impracticability was established by defeat and disappointment. It was repeated with all the force of ironical invective from the Opposition bench, and reiterated by the anti-ministerial writers. It soon found its way, with many ludicrous comments, into coffee-houses and places of amusement, and will probably be preserved in the tablet of public memory, while his Lordship shall retain an official situation under government.

In private life the conduct of the noble Lord is of the most amiable kind. He is susceptible of every generous feeling; and to his friendship Mr. Canning is peculiarly indebted for his rise in the political world. Lord Hawkesbury, uninfluenced by those motives of jealousy from the danger of future competition, to which the best characters are sometimes subject, viewed that gentleman's talents with admiration; and, though Mr. Canning was then on terms of intimate friendship with a leading member of Opposition, at once eminent as an author, an orator, and a wit, he introduced him to the patronage of the Earl of Liverpool, who has since warmly interested himself in his favour.

DR. ISAAC MILNER.

THE life of this gentleman exhibits a singular combination of ability, worth, industry, and good fortune. He was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, near Leeds, of parents who could boast neither of rank nor property. While he was a boy, his father, who was a weaver, died; and the family left behind were Isaac, an elder brother Joseph, and their mother, old and infirm. As the support of the father was wanting, it was necessary that double industry should be exerted by the remaining branches of the family, to enable them even to live. The two young Milners were constantly at their spinning-wheels by day-break, in the summer; and, in winter, they rose by candle-light to pursue their labour. By this course of persevering diligence, they were enabled for a long time to maintain, with credit, themselves and their aged parent.

It was observed of these young men, by the neighbours, that they did not associate much with their acquaintances in the village, when a holiday or any other occasion invited them out to country sports. They employed their vacant time in the study of a few books, which chance had thrown in their way. This singularity brought them into some notice; and they became frequently the subjects of conversation among their neighbours.

With industry, and this love of study, they also united the strictest sobriety; so that it was generally predicted

predicted of them, by the neighbours, that they would one day make good figures in life.

Their fame at last began to spread through Leeds, a place which eminently abounds with opulent, generous, and discerning men. A subscription was readily entered into, by them, to educate, and send to college, one of these young men; and Joseph, as the elder brother, and who at that time displayed the most talent, was fixed upon as the object of their patronage. Isaac, after this, was for some time thrown into the back ground; though destined in the sequel to come forward and surpass his brother.

Joseph was sent to the grammar-school at Leeds; and the lessons he learnt there by day, on his return home at night, he imparted to Isaac; who discovered not only a liking for this novel study of the classics, but also great quickness of parts, memory, and judgment. Thus passed three years; in the course of which time, it may be supposed that Isaac had gained a tolerable degree of acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages.

But the time soon arrived when Joseph was to be sent to college. This deprived the younger brother of the only assistant who was able and willing to give him instruction. The foundation of knowledge was however laid, and it was only necessary to raise the superstructure. This, by pursuing the same course of industry with which he set out, was effectually done; so that, at the age of nineteen, he might be justly styled a good classic.

Having arrived at that age when it is usual for boys

boys to be put to some trade, he was bound apprentice to a weaver. Previously educated as Isaac had been, it cannot be supposed that the loom agreed with his disposition any better than the distaff with that of Hercules; he had, however, like the old Theban, the soft influence of attendant charms to reconcile him to his temporary captivity; for the Muses, both in the hour of labour and recreation, were his constant companions.

While Isaac was thus employed in the occupation of a weaver, his brother had finished his studies at Cambridge with considerable *eclat*, having ranked as *senior optime*, and gained the second classical medal. Soon after, he was ordained; and, removing to Hull, held the curacy of Trinity Church, and became master of the free grammar-school of that place.

Isaac, who had long compared, with no high degree of satisfaction to himself, the inglorious toils of a mechanic life, with the splendid honours and emoluments of a literary one, thought this a good opportunity to attempt an emancipation from a trade no way congenial to his disposition, and wrote, therefore, to his brother an account of the progress he had made in literature; at the same time requesting to become an assistant to him in the school, for teaching the lower classes. However Joseph might wish to comply with his brother's request, he was resolved to proceed on sure grounds; and wrote to a clergyman of Leeds to call and examine his brother; and, if he found his attainments considerable, or his genius at all promising, to send him down to Hull. In conformity

conformity to this request, the clergyman waited upon young Isaac, who was then about nineteen years of age. He was found at his loom, with a Tacitus lying by his side. After undergoing an examination for some time, in the course of which he displayed great accuracy of idea, much general knowledge, and an astonishing command of language, he was thought perfectly eligible to be sent to Hull. Accordingly, in a few days after, he bade adieu to the humble occupation of weaving for ever.

Joseph Milner, with whom Isaac was now to reside, having settled at Hull, as master of the free grammar-school, and curate of Trinity-Church, became, about the time of his brother's removal from Leeds, convinced, in a manner to which he had hitherto been a stranger, of many peculiar doctrines of Christianity; such as, the *New Birth*, *Justification by Faith*, *Original Sin*, and *Redemption by Jesus Christ*. Being a man zealous by nature in every cause he undertook, he became, in support of these points, a fearless and animated preacher. With a conduct irreproachable, and an air of sanctity about his person, it is not to be wondered at, that he made great impression on his hearers. Those of them who by nature were gay, dwelt on his representations of eternal felicity with peculiar partiality, and already counted heaven as their own: the timid were alarmed at his denunciations, and saw nothing but perdition awaiting them: while the men of the world, as they are called, who cannot altogether renounce the dictates of nature and reason, ridiculed him as
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little better than a madman. This *timor decorum*, as Horace would have called it, thus seizing the mind of Joseph Milner, continued ever after to be the leading feature of his character. A Bible was always his pocket-companion, which employed his researches, whenever company or business left a vacant opportunity. This constant occupation of the mind on religious ideas he used to recommend to his scholars, as the best means of counteracting the designs of their grand enemy. Nothing, to be sure, could be more effectual for that purpose; but the suggestions of nature, which are frequently laudable, and at the same time full as subtle as those of Satan, may be unhappily silenced by the same contrivance: it is necessary, therefore, to have the means of distinguishing the one from the other. Whether such a system is to be ranked among the imbecilities of the human mind, and denominated *superstition*, or esteemed a new species of sensibility to objects of greater importance than those of sense, and to be dignified with the title of *religion*, may be with some difficulty to determine. Certain it is, that Joseph Milner, for thirty years before his death, lived the life of a strict believer in Christianity; and, more than can be said of the generality of such persons, his life was answerable to his professions; so that, whether his conquests over the frailties and propensities of human nature be real or imaginary, he has the most indisputable right to the praise of an honest man.

With such an example before him, Isaac could not

not but imbibe some sentiments of veneration for the Christian religion; and his mind was no doubt tinged with that particular view of its tenets, which distinguished the belief of his brother. His prospects were now turned toward the church; and, after having assisted his brother for some time, in the capacity of usher, he was removed to Queen's college, Cambridge, where he entered as a sizar.

Few persons ever went better prepared to the university, or with talents more likely to make a conspicuous figure. Beside his natural assiduity and good abilities, he had the advantage of being educated by a person, that had gone through the university before him, and that person also a brother; who must have been, therefore, a more sedulous instructor than any other person.

While an usher at Hull, Isaac Milner had made himself a complete classic. His knowledge of mathematics must have been also very considerable, since, on the occurrence of any difficulty in algebra, it was usual with his brother Joseph to send to him for an explanation; which, though the elder brother might have been able to make out himself, yet the readiness of Isaac always saved him that trouble. In algebra, therefore, and Euclid, he may be considered to have possessed, before even he went to the university, a senior *optime's* knowledge. Another great cause of his success was the circumstance of his spending the long vacation at his brother's school in his original employment of usher. By these means, he had not only retained what he had learnt, but

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was enabled to add considerably, every year, to his Cambridge acquirements. All the time of his being an under-graduate was spent in indefatigable study. Confident in his abilities, he had fixed his eye upon the first honours of the place, and possessed perseverance and ability sufficient to ensure their attainment. In the year 1774, therefore, he became senior wrangler, with the honourable distinction of *incomparabilis*, and gained also the first mathematical prize.

This struggle for literary distinction, though crowned with success, was not attended with that only charm, which can render even success pleasant. Intense study had secretly laid the foundation of a nervous disorder, which may possibly continue, as it hitherto has done, to embitter his future life. The equal distribution of happiness seems not less true than philosophical; and, perhaps, the painless days and unbroken slumbers of the peasant form no mean counterpoise to the most splendid rewards of literature.

This valetudinarian state of Mr. Milner may account for some peculiarities of his conduct; such as residing much at home, and being at church

Parvus cultor deorum et infrequens.

His retirement, however, is said to be employed in labours which will one day add to his literary fame, and considerably benefit the world. In 1782 he served the office of Proctor; and in 1792 that of Vice-Chancellor.

At Cambridge, Mr. Milner became acquainted with that ornament of the British senate and of human-
nity,

nity, William Wilberforce, Esq. This gentleman, though he had, from his earliest years, the advantage of a strict education, yet his sentiments on religious subjects are said to have received great confirmation from the clear reasonings and able deductions of Mr. Milner. Soon after the commencement of this acquaintance, the parties, together with Mr. Pitt, went on a continental tour; but had not proceeded far, before some political changes in this country called them back. A friendship, however, was cemented in this short time between them, which is not likely to be soon dissolved.

Soon after Mr. Milner returned from the continent, which was in 1788, he was chosen President of the college, to which, as a student, he had done so much credit. Before his election, this venerable asylum of Erasmus had greatly decreased in reputation, but began then to assume something of its ancient consequence, by the repletion of its numbers. It has always been the present President's wish that Queen's should not be behind any college in the means of instruction; he has, therefore, introduced men of the best abilities from the other colleges among the fellows of Queen's, who find in him a steady friend and patron. The interior management of the college has also been much improved, by the correction of many abuses, which were sanctioned by long prescription. *Ad deterius* is the tendency of every institution, unless this salutary interference of authority sometimes takes place. Few, however, have fortitude enough, like Milner, to support the ob-

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loquy which innovation, however laudable, is apt to produce. At the time he was under-graduate, it was the custom for sizars to wait on the fellows, to dine after they had done, and submit to many other degrading circumstances. These servile distinctions, with a recollection how injurious they were to his former feelings, Mr. Milner has also abolished.

A short time after he became president of Queen's, he took out his doctor's degree, and was presented with the deanery of Carlisle. It is his custom to visit this place regularly every year, but he seldom resides there long. Hull, before the decease of his brother (for whom he entertained a high regard, but called, on account of his methodism, his *strange brother*), was the most favourite place of his residence. His lodgings were a complete workshop, filled with all kinds of carpenter's and turner's instruments. He was accustomed here to relax his mind daily from the fatigues of study, by some manual labour. His lathe and appendages for turning were extremely curious, and cost him no less than one hundred and forty guineas. He had also a very curious machine, partly of his own invention, which formed and polished at the same time, with the utmost possible exactness, watch-wheels of every description.

A celebrated moralist of the present day maintains that manual labour is one great source of happiness. It is evident that we cannot bear, without injury, for any long time, intense and uninterrupted thoughts; it is equally clear, that, when the mind, without any object of pursuit, is left to its own spontaneous en-

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sibilities,

sibilities, it turns either to the future or the past; and, as we are either melancholy or gay, so is the prospect before us. This state, therefore, of sensibility, exercising the mind, not according to the real existence of things, but to their accidental impression, is seldom profitable; besides this, it can be no relief to a mind already wearied with deep thinking. Something is wanted for this purpose, which gently exercises the mental powers, on some corporeal movement. Manual labour, requiring just dexterity enough to abstract the mind from its accustomed operations, seems best to answer this end. Let it not, therefore, be a matter of surprise or ridicule, that a man of enlarged understanding, as in the present instance, should stoop for amusement to the drudgery of mechanical employment. It is not even enough to call Uncle Toby's whims inoffensive, they were really useful; and our hobbies, whatever they be, are founded in nature, and indispensable to our happiness.

The literary productions of Doctor Milner are but few; but, as they bear the stamp of genius, they have procured him much reputation, and a fellowship in the Royal Society. They consist of communications to that respectable body; the first of which is dated 16th February 1778, concerning the communication of motions by impact and gravity.—Another paper treats of the limits of algebraical equations, and contains a general demonstration of Des Cartes' rule for finding the number of affirmative and negative roots: this is dated February 26th.

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In the following June, we find another communication on the precession of the equinoxes.

Doctor Milner ranks very high as a chemist. The French are said to have availed themselves of his discovery concerning the composition of nitre, which has enabled them to supply, without foreign assistance, the vast consumption of that article, used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

On the death of Doctor Waring, Doctor Milner, in 1798, was made Lucasian professor of mathematics, worth 350*l.* a year. Thus we see, with no other advantages but those of ability and merit, a person rising from the obscurest rank of life, and, together with all his other literary distinctions, filling even the chair of the immortal Newton. Desert, crowned with success, must, to every generous mind, afford a high degree of satisfaction; while, at the same time, it holds out a fostering encouragement to those seeds of genius which otherwise might lie dormant in the bosom of indigence and obscurity. Although a considerable portion of the life of Doctor Milner was employed in the laborious occupation of a mechanic, yet, untinctured with any former habits, his manners and sentiments eminently display the refined taste of the scholar and the gentleman; so that the very disadvantages under which he laboured in the former part of his life, only so much the more enhance our admiration of his present attainments.

Urit enim fulgore suo.

The Dean has published a new edition of his brother's History of the Christian Church, with a vindication

dication of it from some remarks of Doctor Haweis ; also his brother's Sermons, with an account of his life prefixed.

THOMAS LEWIS O'BEIRNE, D. D.

BISHOP OF MEATH.*

THE subject of this memoir furnishes an additional name to grace the catalogue of those truly illustrious characters, who, by their private and public virtues, have triumphed over every opposition, and raised themselves to honourable eminence in society.

The great reverse of situation which his family had experienced from one of those revolutions which so frequently affect the fortunes of nations and individuals, and of which we have had so many affecting instances in our own day, was not the only obstacle which Dr. O'Beirne had to surmount. Born and educated within the pale of the Roman Catholic church, he had, at first, to overcome the spirit of religious prejudice, carefully infused into a tender mind, and afterwards to contend with the force of public opinion, which is not apt to give credit to the professions of those who renounce an old, and unexpectedly embrace a new system of worship. He has, however, completely succeeded in impressing the public mind with a firm conviction of the purity of his motives ; and the

* We are happy in this present edition to have it in our power to bestow several important corrections upon the memoirs of this respectable Prelate, and are concerned to find that in the former edition some inaccuracies were admitted relative to material points connected with the early part of his Lordship's life and his connexions.

natural mildness of his temper, unperturbed by the rancorous impulse of a new-born zeal, has excited regret, without censure, in the members of the religion that lost him, and admiration, without envy, in the reverend teachers of the faith which he now professes.

Doctor O'Beirne was born at Farnagh, in the county of Longford, in the year 1749. The O'Beirnes of Dangan, in the county of Roscommon, of whom he is now the chief, ranked from the earliest times to the period of the revolution among the most ancient and respectable of the Irish families of the province of Connaught, and were originally a branch of the O'Connors. It appears from the records of the Herald's-office in Dublin, that as early as the reign of King John, John O'Beirne, surnamed Barnveal, or the Hairlipped, was seated at Dangan; a great favourite of the king's, and endowed with immense possessions; and on the same records is a genealogy containing a regular descent of heirs male, with their different intermarriages, from this John to Francis O'Beirne of Dangan, who at the time of the revolution forfeited the inheritance of his family for the second time, in the cause of the unfortunate Stuarts. Under Cromwell's usurpation he had attended Charles the Second through all his fortunes, and in the Act of Settlement he is restored to his estates, among those who are there enumerated as having given that proof of unshaken loyalty and attachment to the exiled monarch. When the battle of Aughrim, in which he fought, had given the last blow to all the expectations of the adherents of James, he retired into Spain with his wife and children, and was received at that court in a manner becoming

coming his birth and connections. His two daughters were taken into the family of the queen dowager in quality of maids of honour, and in that station the elder, a woman of uncommon beauty, had the misfortune to be beloved by the famous Duke of Wharton, and the still greater misfortune to return his love. Notwithstanding the decided opposition of her royal mistress, she persisted in her determination to marry this "outcast of each church and state," and was that wife to whose fate Pope alludes in the well known line in his character of Clodio,

"A tyrant to the very wife he loved."

Her brother married a noble Spaniard, and two ladies descended from him are still living in Spain; the only remains of that branch of the family.

John, second brother to Francis, on this subversion and dispersal of his family, took refuge among his relations the O'Farrells, of the county of Longford, one of whom, the daughter of O'Farrell of Aughanaspeak, he married, and was killed in his own house by a party of rapparees, leaving his widow with two sons in their childhood. Of these, Thomas, the elder, was sent to receive his education in Spain, from whence he returned titular Bishop of Ardagh. Dennis, the younger, applied to the study of physic; but practising in an obscure part of the country, and having the prejudices of the times to contend with, he procured but a scanty subsistence for a wife and a numerous family. Similarity of circumstances, and alliances formed in better days, had made him acquainted with Catherine the daughter of Ross O'Farrell,

rell, the head of the distinguished and wealthy house of Moat Farrell, who had suffered in the general wreck of the revolution, and by his marriage with this lady, who lived to the very advanced age of ninety-nine, he had three sons and several daughters. Of the sons, two became Roman Catholic priests. Lewis, the youngest, married Margaret O'Meagher, grand-daughter to Colonel Edmund O'Meagher, of Cloona, in the county of Tipperary; a woman of a very superior mind and understanding, and whose memory is still revered by all who knew her. The issue of this marriage were four sons and two daughters. Dennis, the second son, was originally designed for the profession of physic, and was sent to Paris in that view in the year 1765. But having a mind strongly tinctured with devotion, he entered into orders and was parish-priest of Temple Michael, when Doctor O'Beirne became rector of it in 1791, on resigning his preferments in England. John, the third brother, served the office of high sheriff of the county of Longford, and commanded the light infantry company in the militia of that county during the whole of the last war. He is married to Miss Peacocke, daughter of Sir Joseph Peacocke, Bart. of the county of Clare, and niece to Lord Castle Coote, and Sir Eyre Coote. Andrew, the fourth brother, died an officer in the East India Company's service.

Thomas Lewis, the eldest son, whose life we are writing, was sent at the age of seven years to the diocesan school of Ardagh, then held in the town of Longford, by the Rev. Thomas Hynes, one of the
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most celebrated scholars of his day. Under the tuition of this worthy man he continued until the class to which he belonged went off to Trinity College, Dublin, in the year 1763. At this time peace being concluded with France, he was sent by his father, and an uncle who always lived and shared his income with him, to Paris, and entered under the care of Doctor O'Kelly, into what was called the Irish community, from its admitting young persons destined for other pursuits and professions, as well as for the Romish ministry, to which the college of Lombard, in the same enclosure, was exclusively devoted. From this seminary he attended the public course of academic studies in the college of Plessis, and was annually crowned, as well at the public distribution of prizes at that college, as in the university at large, until he concluded his year of rhetoric in the year 1767. At this time he fell into so bad a state of health, that he was advised by the physicians to try his native air, and in the beginning of the summer of 1768, he accompanied Mr. Usher, the ingenious author of *Clio, or, a Discourse upon Taste*, as far as London, from whence he shortly after returned to his father's house, after an absence of five years. Having in the course of the ensuing autumn and winter completely re-established his health, he once more quitted the paternal roof to return to Paris, with an intention to apply himself to the study of physic; but having remained for some months in London, he there formed connections, and adopted ideas, that changed the whole tenor of his life.

The first circumstance that led to the part he has since acted was, the acquaintance and patronage of that worthy encourager of talents and merit wherever he discovered them, the late Dr. Hinchliffe, Bishop of Peterborough. To this prelate he was first introduced, we believe, at Mr. Bouverie's, at Delapre-abbey, near Northampton, and he afterwards improved his acquaintance with him at Lord Northampton's, at Castle Ashby. An exposition which he drew up of his reasons for having renounced the errors of popery, gave such satisfaction to Dr. Hinchliffe, that he communicated it to Doctor Cornwallis, then Archbishop of Canterbury, and, with his Grace's concurrence, he encouraged Mr. O'Beirne publicly to read his recantation, as a necessary previous step to his admission to orders. With this recommendation Mr. O'Beirne cheerfully complied, and between the morning prayer and the communion service, standing under the screen of All Saints church, in Northampton, he solemnly renounced the errors of the church of Rome.

From this time the Bishop never ceased to give him the most convincing proofs of his friendship. Under his auspices he was entered of Trinity College, Cambridge, of which his Lordship was then master. He admitted him to orders as soon as he was of age, and immediately on his receiving priesthood, procured him the vicarage of Grondon, in Northamptonshire, that belonged to Trinity College; and at length when, in the year 1776, Lord Howe was appointed commissioner and commander in chief in the expedition

tion to America, and had applied to Doctor Hinchliffe to recommend a clergyman to him, who should not only live in his own family, as chaplain to his flag, but be qualified to assist him in whatever steps he might be encouraged to take relative to an establishment for the episcopal church in America, his Lordship instantly thought of his young friend, and placed him in the situation that may be said to have led to all his future fortunes.

The calamitous fire which happened at New York in 1776, supplied him with an opportunity of displaying the doctrines of Christianity in the most edifying and consolatory manner. To make the precept and practice of the gospel go hand in hand had been his constant study from the moment he entered into holy orders; and while he cultivated, in private, every mean within his power to soften the horrors and alleviate the miseries of war, he was appointed to preach in St. Paul's church, the only one in New York which had been preserved from the fury of the flames. His discourse on that melancholy occasion has been often mentioned as the effusion of a mind animated with the purest sentiments of charity and brotherly love, and it has been justly praised as a composition remarkable for dignified and pathetic eloquence.

On his return from America, when the conduct of Lord Howe, with respect to the direction and execution of military operations, became the subject of general animadversion and parliamentary enquiry, and was boldly censured in newspapers and pamphlets, supposed to be written by persons in high credit and confidence

confidence with ministry; Doctor O'Beirne came forward in defence of his friend, and published a pamphlet in vindication of his conduct, that had an extensive circulation, and was extolled by the adherents of the General and Admiral.

In thus vindicating the character of his noble friend, he was necessarily led to consider the conduct of the admiralty as far as it was connected with his subject, and in this part of the pamphlet he carried the war with such success into the enemy's quarters; he placed their inattention to the information they had received of the designs of the court of France, of their armaments and their destination, in so strong a light, and so forcibly exposed their ignorance and incapacity in the disposition of the force which they were at length driven to send to Lord Howe's relief, that he attracted the observation of the leaders of Opposition; and through the means of his steady patron and friend Dr. Hinchliffe, he was first introduced to Lord Fitzwilliam; and through his Lordship to Mr. Burke, the Duke of Portland, and the rest of the party.

About this time, he was presented by Lord Thurlow to the vicarage of West Deeping, in Lincolnshire, on the application of Lord Howe, and this was the only instance of his Lordship's patronage which he ever had to acknowledge. It was not that he ever relaxed in his attachment to that great man, or that he had ever forfeited his friendship. The writer of this has reason to believe that Lord Howe never knew that the defence of his conduct, which had so much contributed to put his enemies to silence, had been written

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by his chaplain. Yet he always took a warm interest in Mr. O'Beirne's welfare; and if their former connexion was not renewed on Lord Howe's accepting the command of the channel fleet, it was because the circumstances were different; and other prospects were opened to Mr. O'Beirne from his connections with the new administration.

No sooner had Lord Fitzwilliam made Mr. O'Beirne known to his friends than he zealously engaged in their service. His first essay was in the *Englishman*, a periodical paper that united all the talents of the party; and if we are not misinformed, the three last numbers are to be ascribed to him. He next engaged in the *Country Gentleman*, the signature under which he wrote a series of letters that appeared regularly in a paper then printed by Almon. In this work, according to Almon's information in a late publication, in which he has inserted four of these numbers, he received no other assistance than one letter from the elegant pen of Mr. Burke, jun. Shortly after appeared the substance of a charge of mismanagement against the First Lord of the Admiralty, on the motion of Mr. Fox in the House of Commons. This was a kind of brief drawn up under the direction of Lord Keppel, from which Mr. Fox produced that charge that first shook Lord North's administration, leaving him in a majority of only sixteen. His other political productions, as far as our information goes, was a defence of Lord Keppel, in a pamphlet entitled *Considerations on Naval Courts Martial*; Letters to Commodore Johnston, under the signature of Blake, on
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his engagement with Suffrein, in Port Praya Road; a short History of the late Parliament; Considerations on the late Disturbances, by a consistent Whig; the Source of the Evil, in four letters, written on the dissolution of the Duke of Portland's administration; an Answer to the Treasury Pamphlet on the Irish Propositions, to which Mr. Chalmers wrote a reply, as if written by Mr. Burke; and a Letter to a Friend in Ireland on the Fourth Proposition. He was a member of the club from which issued the *Roliad*; the Probationary Odes, &c. &c.; but we do not believe that he contributed any part towards these celebrated compositions, except a few epigrams, and the probationary ode ascribed to Dr. Wharton.

In March 1782, when the Rockingham party came into power, Dr. O'Beirne accompanied the Duke of Portland, his avowed patron, then appointed Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, to that country as his private secretary. He was also nominated one of his chaplains. But it unfortunately happened that his Grace had not, from the short duration of his government, which did not last quite four months, any opportunity of providing, as he wished, for his reverend *protégé*.

An anecdote related of Doctor O'Beirne, during his residence in Ireland, as private secretary to the lord-lieutenant, and with the authenticity of which we have good reasons to be satisfied, will more fully lay open the secret recesses of his heart than a thousand volumes written by panegyrists, whose only documents are the actions of his public life. One of his
oldest

oldest acquaintances, of the name of Hagarty, who had been for many years employed in the Excise, was superannuated, and obliged to retire, with a large family, on the miserable salary of 10*l.* per annum. He had heard of the Doctor's preferment, and was advised to solicit his interest. Though he at first declined the advice, from motives of despair or bashfulness, necessity at length silenced his scruples, and he sent a letter to the secretary. Doctor O'Beirne immediately dispatched a messenger for him, received him in the most friendly manner, and assured him, "that, though he had never applied to the lord-lieutenant for a favour, he would do so on the present occasion, both on account of their former acquaintance, and the distress to which a numerous and helpless family was exposed. If he succeeded, Hagarty should of course be replaced on the establishment; if not, he would cheerfully allow him a yearly sum out of his private purse equal to what he had received when in full employment." It is almost needless to add that he did succeed, and that poor Hagarty and his family were rescued from ruin.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham having led to the dissolution of the administration formed under his auspices, the Duke of Portland was succeeded in the government of Ireland by the Marquis of Buckingham, then Earl Temple, in July 1782, and returned to London with his private secretary and chaplain. His Grace, now perfectly convinced, from his experience in Irish affairs, of the Doctor's talents for political business; employed his pen and had recourse

course to his advice on almost every important occasion. He was initiated in all the mysteries of Opposition, and assisted at several secret conferences held by its leaders. He became peculiarly attached to Mr. Fox, and we are enabled to state, that his admiration of that great statesman's powers and virtues has not been diminished by the extraordinary changes which have since appeared to take place in political sentiment.

The idea of the ever-memorable coalition was then suggested as the only certain mode of hurling from the helm of power rivals, who had dared to intercept and monopolize the fruits of so many painful, but successful, labours; who had presumed to appropriate to themselves the spoils of that political *Troy*, which had only fallen after a desperate siege of ten years, and in the breaches of which *they* had not ventured to expose themselves, until a triumphant entrance was no longer doubtful. It was accordingly agreed to, and succeeded. But the victory was transient; and even the moment of exultation was darkened with prognostics of speedy disappointment and defeat.

When the Duke of Portland was raised to the important office of first lord of the Treasury, in April 1783, he appointed Doctor O'Beirne his private secretary. He performed the duties of the situation with great industry for upwards of eight months, when the coalition was, in its turn, divested of authority, and compelled to retire. He had not, however, been neglected by his patron. In January he had been appointed

appointed chaplain to the king, and, on the day previous to the nomination of Mr. Pitt as first lord of the Treasury, he was put into possession of two livings in Northumberland and Cumberland, valued at nearly 700*l.* a year, which were in the gift of government. The manner in which these livings were conferred on him, both by the zealous interference of his noble patron and the prompt assistance of a noble lord now very high in legal honours, served to inspire him with additional ardour in support of his political friends.

In the winter of 1785 his health was so materially injured, that after having taken the waters of Bath for some time to no purpose, he was recommended by his physicians to try the air of the continent; and he spent the spring and summer of the following year at the Duke of Richmond's seat at Aubigne, in Berry. In this excursion he was accompanied by his lady, to whom he had been married in November 1783 at St. Margaret's church, Westminster. She was the only surviving child of Colonel Francis Stuart, brother to the Earl of Moray, lineally descended from the Duke of Albany, son to Robert the Third of Scotland, and by the marriage of his ancestor with the only child of the regent Moray, still more nearly allied to the royal line of Stuart. By this lady he has a son and two daughters.

His visit to the continent did not answer his expectations, and he was advised to repeat the trial which in his earlier life had proved so successful. He therefore proceeded, on his return from France, with his family to his mother's in Ireland, where he once again experienced

experienced the efficacy of his native air, and being encouraged by the recovery of his health to accept the offer which, in compliment to the Duke of Portland, was made him of the rich benefices of Temple Michael and Mohill by the then Archbishop of Tuam, he resigned his livings in Northumberland, and settled in Ireland for life.

In this situation of a minister of the parish in which he was born, he remained till Lord Fitzwilliam undertook the lord-lieutenancy of Ireland, when his Lordship called him up to Dublin, appointed him his private secretary and first chaplain, and in a few weeks promoted him to the see of Ossory, from whence, in Lord Cornwallis's administration, he was translated to the see of Meath, worth 5000*l.* a year, and made a privy counsellor in Ireland.

Bishop O'Beirne was among the most active and zealous of those who supported the measures and promoted the principles of the Fitzwilliam administration. He was particularly so in furtherance of what seemed to be the primary object of the viceroy, the emancipation, as it was called, of the Catholics; for, though Bishop O'Beirne is a convert to the faith of Protestantism, he is not at all actuated by that outrageous zeal against the faith which he has renounced, which generally marks the proselyte. He not only approved that measure, but took up his pen in defence of it, and pleaded the cause of the Catholics with his accustomed energy and pathos. When Lord Fitzwilliam was removed from office, and the character and measures of his administration came to be canvassed with rather a

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severe and acrimonious spirit in the Irish House of Peers, Bishop O'Beirne stood forward with honest warmth and distinguished ability in defence of his absent, and, as he conceived, injured patron. His speech in the House of Lords on that occasion, was reckoned among the best which have been delivered in that assembly.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist with respect to his political life, his exemplary conduct in discharging the sacred functions of his present dignified office has united every sentiment in his favour. He delivered a charge to the clergy of his diocese of Ossory, which is, perhaps, unexampled in point of pastoral simplicity and apostolic doctrine. He made a solemn declaration, that, in the ecclesiastical promotions which were at his disposal, he should be influenced by the merits of the candidates only. He instituted monthly lectures, on topics of religious controversy and subjects selected from the History of the Church, while chapters from the New Testament were occasionally translated, and the most approved commentators and expositors were carefully consulted. It was not uncommon, during these lectures, to see them attended by clergymen from a distance of twenty or thirty miles, who probably had not for twenty or thirty years looked into the original text. But while he exacted a punctual attention to duties, peculiarly necessary in a country where the sophistry of the church of Rome was either thought unworthy of the honour of a contest, or was allowed to triumph, without opposition, over the blind credulity of her disciples, and the fre-

quent ignorance of her opponents, he constantly distinguished himself by his attention to the interests of the clergy under his jurisdiction. His house and table were always open to them, particularly to those of the inferior order; and he has never been reproached with neglecting any opportunity to reward the claims of merit, however destitute of recommendation.

As a preacher, Doctor O'Beirne ranks in the first class. His sermons seldom relate to the thorny points of controversial theology, which are more calculated to confound than to enlighten. He is generally satisfied with expatiating on the grand and essential doctrines of Christianity, and his diction is perspicuous, animated, and nervous. He is occasionally sublime, frequently pathetic, and always intelligible to his auditors. Though gifted with considerable powers of imagination, he studiously checks them when they seem to interfere in the pure fervency of devotion. He appears to have made it his great object,

“ To discipline his fancy, to command
The heart; and, by familiar accents, move
The Christian soul.” —

The conduct of his lordship in private life has been ever distinguished for that liberality of heart and urbanity of manners which evince a just knowledge of the duties of society.

In 1799 his lordship collected and published, in one volume octavo, the different sermons which he had preached on public occasions, with three charges, including the one just mentioned, and a circular address

dress to the clergy of his diocese. In 1801 the bishop preached the anniversary sermon at St. Paul's cathedral, for the charity schools, in which he took occasion to animadvert in severe terms upon the supposed neglect of religious instruction in our public seminaries. For this he was rather roughly handled by that profound scholar and able schoolmaster, Doctor Vincent, in a letter, which has made considerable noise, but which the bishop has not thought it prudent to answer. Besides the works already noticed, Doctor O'Beirne is the author of a poem entitled "The Crucifixion;" of an Ode to Lord Northampton, and the Generous Impostor; works which he has himself been often heard to say have been deservedly consigned to oblivion.

THE REV. WILLIAM FARISH

IS the son of a clergyman who resided at Carlisle; at the grammar-school of which place he was educated, previously to his removal to the university. He did not display in this early part of his life any of that ability which has since marked his progress in mathematical science. Though naturally endowed with a clear discriminating mind and capacious memory, yet, whether from want of any peculiar bent of genius, or the circumstance of his studies being more particularly adapted to those of Cambridge, he was never remarkable for any great proficiency in classical knowledge.

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With this strong bias to mathematics, Mr. Farish, at the age of sixteen, entered sizar at Magdalen college, Cambridge; and, during his under-graduateship, was an example of subordination, sobriety, and close application to study.

When an under-graduate, to preserve himself free from every thing which might seduce his mind from study, it was Mr. Farish's uniform practice never to associate familiarly with the gay, the idle, or the dissolute. His companions were men of studious habits like his own; and who, like himself, have since arrived at respectability and preferment. This is the best proof that can be given of the soundness of his early judgment.

In the success and advancement of a whole society of young men, as in the instance before us, is seen the importance of good and constitutional principles; their effects are not arbitrary, but uniform; not casual, but certain. Among his college friends were numbered Doctor Jowett, the present professor of laws, remarkable as well for his deep researches in Roman and English jurisprudence, as for the purity of his Latin diction; also the Rev. Mr. Miles Atkinson, of Leeds, respectable, as the founder of an institution for gratuitously educating young men of promising abilities at both our universities; and the Rev. Mr. Venn, the present learned and worthy rector of Clapham.

A short time after taking his degree, Mr. Farish was chosen fellow and tutor of his college. For the
classical

classical part of education he chose an assistant. The lectures in mathematics he conducted in a manner which has done credit to himself, and considerably raised the reputation of the college; since its numbers have, of late years, considerably increased.

Few persons are more conscientious in the discharge of their duty than Mr. Farish. This, those who are under his care know to their cost, as it opposes a considerable barrier to their favourite propensities. They are apt to think him arbitrary, therefore, where he has only exercised a necessary and temperate authority; but such an opinion must be taken with considerable limitation, since the party aggrieved can seldom make an impartial judgment.

This high sense of duty, by which the conduct of Mr. Farish is regulated, has been a misfortune to many. When proctor, the discipline of the university was kept unusually strict. Once, in his accustomed nightly rounds with his attendants, he observed three gownsmen enter one of those houses of illicit accommodation, whose doors, like those of Dis,

Noctes atque dies patent.

An authoritative rap soon announced the arrival of the proctor. To escape was impossible; for the besieger had placed his men at every avenue leading to the building. An out-house seemed to offer the best security to the prisoners, and to this they fled for security. In the mean time the proctor entered: he examined and threatened, but all in vain;—no-

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body had been there. Unwilling, however, to give up the testimony of his senses, in conformity to the wishes of those whom he deemed parties concerned in the business, he continued his search till at last he arrived at the out-house. A tub in one corner, and a recent inundation of water, created suspicion. The proctor no sooner began to restore it to its natural position, than the successor to its former contents appeared underneath, with all his dripping "honours thick about him." But this, to speak mathematically, explained only one part of the problem; two other quantities were still wanting, and the present investigator was the fittest person in the world to find them out. These were at length discovered roosting quietly, as two fowls at midnight, on a beam over his head. This, in the opinion of Mr. Farish, was no small misdemeanor; and, as he was one on whom the pleas of juvenile indiscretion and fellow-feeling of his own could not operate, the offenders had nothing to expect from him in the way of mitigated punishment. They were conveyed before the vice-chancellor, and a day was appointed, when they must either acknowledge their offence in full senate, and ask forgiveness, or be expelled the university. This is mentioned, not to blame, but to do honour to Mr. Farish, as a strict disciplinarian in a place where neither those in *statu dominanti vel pupillari* are remarkable for unexceptionable conduct.

Mr. Farish never committed himself before the public as an author; but has chosen his path rather along the "sequestered vale" of science. Few persons,

sons, however, are better known, or more respected for their talents. In an age when improvement is extremely difficult, even in the slightest thing, Mr. Farish has struck out a new road to knowledge, equally bold and interesting. For many years, during the long vacation at Cambridge, it has been his custom to travel into every part of the kingdom, where any thing curious was to be found; to visit the workshops of artificers; to descend into mines; to observe the improvements of the arts; and to take models of every thing valuable in machinery. His collection of this kind, thus made with astonishing labour and expence, is the epitome of every thing which supports the commercial consequence, and ministers to the convenience and luxury of this country. He possesses models in miniature of cotton-mills, looms, polishing machines, steam-engines, sawing mills, and contrivances of every kind, to facilitate labour, capable of performing their several movements with all the exactitude of their originals. Mr. Farish gives public lectures, annually, on these, in Cambridge, to the students of the several colleges, who not only find them very instructive, but amusing also: they are in general, therefore, very well attended. In these lectures, the operations of the machines are not only described, but actually brought into effect. Raw materials, of every kind, are brought before his pupils, and undergo, with surprising speed and ingenuity, every ordeal of workmanship, till they arrive to their ultimate perfection. It is not unusual to see, in the course of one lecture,

gunpowder, hats, vases, and various other things, start into existence from their constituent elements; so that, while an ordinary person, in the course of his life, becomes acquainted with one trade, Mr. Farish, in the course of a few years, has made himself master of almost every trade and manufacture in the kingdom. For versality, therefore, of knowledge, in this way, he stands unrivalled.

This undertaking was the speculation of an individual; and it is to be wished, his endeavours may be crowned with that success which they so richly deserve. This can never be done by the profits of the lectures, let them be ever so well attended. As they are highly pleasing, and instruct our future magistrates and legislators in all the detail of manufactural economy, without the expence and fatigue of travelling; and as this knowledge may operate as well to the preservation, as future improvement, of the arts; would it not be a becoming public retribution to the ingenious institutor, for the university to purchase his collection at a liberal price, and create a mechanical professorship, with a good salary, the first chair of which Mr. Farish himself should fill?—Arts and useful inventions have arisen and disappeared; but, while a public conservatory of these things exists, the danger of such an accident is prevented, and the *status quo* of improvement effectually preserved.

The plan of these lectures may not have been originally Mr. Farish's, but the execution certainly is. Bishop Watson, at the end of his chemical works, first started the idea.

The only improvement that Mr. Farish seems to have made in mechanics is a certain curve in the form of cogs, which enables a system of wheels to work with the least possible friction. A mill has been constructed in the north of England on this plan, and found to answer as well in practice as it promised in theory.

In the year 1792, Mr. Farish stood candidate for the professorship of natural and experimental philosophy; but it was gained by Mr. Wollestone. In 1794, he was made professor of chemistry. He is, beside, president of Magdalen-College, and rector of Clifton, in Northamptonshire. Though his avocations are very numerous, yet he does not think himself thereby exempted from the particular duties of his clerical profession; he therefore holds a curacy, within a few miles of Cambridge, which he regularly serves every Sunday.

The most intricate parts of mathematics are become so familiar to Mr. Farish, that he reads them for his amusement. He has been known, even by a slight inspection, to detect errors in a problem of considerable perplexity and length, prepared for the senate-house by the united care of the other examiners.

The late Doctor Waring was so sensible of his profound knowledge, that he paid but an ill compliment to the other members of the university, by saying, "that nobody understood his writings but Mr. Farish."

His modesty, however, supersedes his merit.—

At a learned discussion which took place among some of the heads of Cambridge, they all spoke except Mr. Farish. One of the company, much celebrated for his wit and learning, at length said, "We have been talking for this hour in vain; and Farish, who knows more about the matter than all of us put together, has not uttered a word." In promiscuous company, taciturnity is certainly a striking feature in Mr. Farish's character. Every thing he says seems to be the result of deep thought, and not the spontaneous flow of social and unsuspecting confidence. Among his intimates, however, he relaxes, it is said, into the facetious and agreeable companion. Mechanism, topography, trade, and manufactures, are his favourite topics of conversation. Having spent the chief part of his life in a college, naturalized to authority on one hand, and submission on the other, his manners, though mild, still retain a peculiarity, which distinguish them from easy and polite equality. Without any reciprocity of his own, he is acquainted with the methods of diving into the opinions of others; and, on all occasions, has approved himself a watchful guardian of the interests of our present establishments.

S. K.

SIR FRANCIS BOURGEOIS, R. A.

THIS ingenious artist is descended from a family of great respectability at Berne, in Switzerland, where

where many of his ancestors filled offices of considerable trust in the state.

He was born in London in the year 1756, and was, at an early age, destined by his father to the profession of arms, in consequence of the friendship entertained for the family by the late Lord Heathfield, who had promised to procure a commission in the army for the son.

The young mind of our artist was now occupied with ideas of martial glory, and he constantly attended military evolutions and reviews. Every inducement to alter the natural bias of his talents proved ineffectual; for, having been instructed, while a child, in some of the rudiments of painting by a Mr. Cervant, a foreigner of inconsiderable merit as a painter of horses, he paid more attention to the imitative art, and exerted himself more assiduously to represent with his pencil the manœuvres he beheld, than to acquire a knowledge of the tactical principles on which they were conducted. About this time he attended almost daily the celebrated riding academy of Mr. Angelo, in Soho-Square, and took peculiar delight in drawing horses in their various attitudes.

Some of his juvenile essays were seen and praised by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Gainsborough; and, encouraged by their approbation, he relinquished all thoughts of the military profession, and entirely devoted himself to the cultivation of an art to which the impulse of genius irresistibly directed his powers. Louthembourg, who admired his early

promise of future excellence, readily consented to take him under his tuition. He did not remain with that able master longer than was necessary to acquire a correct knowledge of the true principles of painting, but determined to indulge his pursuits in the great school of nature, and to study the works of the most eminent masters. From the respectability of his connections, he experienced no difficulty in gaining admission to the best collections in this country; and in the late Marshal Conway, whose taste as a *connoisseur*, and whose amiable qualities as a member of private society, will be long remembered, he found a sincere friend and a liberal patron.

Before he attained the age of twenty, he had acquired no mean reputation by his landscapes and sea-pieces, and some of them are now allowed places in cabinets, distinguished for elegance of selection. In 1776, Sir Francis travelled through the Low Countries, France, and Italy, and studied with indefatigable attention the various beauties that grace the productions of different masters and different ages. The facility with which he spoke several modern languages, particularly the French and Italian, was of peculiar service to him in his tour, and procured him an easy introduction to the most precious collections of the fine arts on the continent.

On his return, he continued to prosecute his studies with increased ardour and reputation, and his exhibitions in the Royal Academy considerably enlarged the circle of his friends and admirers.

About this time, the Prince Primate, brother to the

the amiable and unfortunate Stanislaus Augustus, king of Poland, came to reside for a few months in this country, and was so captivated with the works of our artist, that he frequently passed whole mornings in his painting-room. His highness was also very much gratified with the engaging manners and pleasing conversation of Sir Francis, and constantly honoured him with invitations to his select parties. The prince made him the most liberal offers to induce him to go to Poland, but they were as politely declined as they were gratefully acknowledged.

He was, in 1791, appointed painter to the King of Poland, who also conferred on him the honours of knighthood, of the Order of MERIT; and, having been on that occasion introduced at our court to their Majesties, the King was pleased to confirm the title.

In 1792, he was elected a member of the Royal Academy, without any solicitation on his part; and, in 1794, was appointed landscape-painter to his Majesty.

The works of Sir Francis are numerous, and many of them not only grace several of the principal collections in this country, but have found their way into some distinguished cabinets on the continent. His facility in the execution of any subject which he conceives, has been long a matter of surprise, and the happy variety of tints and glow of colouring with which his chief productions are embellished evidently shew that his labour is "the labour of love, not the task of the hireling." The composition

composition of his pictures is generally in strict conformity to nature, and he is surpassed by few in his just application of the principles of perspective, and in the judicious grouping of his figures.

It is, however, to be lamented, that, in some of his pieces, a hastiness of finishing is observable; and his admirers have often regretted, that, capable as he is of making a distinguished figure in the superior departments of historical painting, he has not allowed his powers to take that extensive range for which they seem sufficiently qualified.

The manners of Sir Francis are highly attractive. His conversation affords pleasure and instruction, and the readiness with which he has, on all occasions, exerted his interest in favour of rising genius or distressed merit, is an honourable testimony of the liberality of his mind. N.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THE Duke of Richmond was born on the 22d of February 1735; he succeeded his father in titles and estate the 8th of August 1750, and took his seat in the House of Lords in 1756. His Grace attached himself to the Whig interest, which at that period was headed by the first Duke of Newcastle, but took no active part in the political contests of the latter part of the reign of George the Second.

At the commencement of the present reign, he was colonel of the 72d regiment of foot, and was esteemed a rising military character, having received

the particular thanks of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick for his conduct and intrepidity at the battle of Minden. He appears, however, to have taken an early disgust to the political system that commenced with the administration of Lord Bute. In 1763, he may be said to have entered upon his political career, when he was distinguished as a bold and dignified speaker in the House of Peers against the measures of Lord Bute and his successor Mr. George Grenville. In 1765, the Tory system experienced a complete overthrow, and the satellites of Lord Bute gave way to the Whigs, headed by their leader, Lord Rockingham, under whose auspices the Stamp-Act was repealed, the tranquillity and confidence of America restored, and the principles of government (which had been introduced at the Revolution, and had raised the country to such a height of splendour and greatness in the succeeding reigns) apparently re-established. In this administration, the Duke of Richmond held the office of secretary of state, the duties of which he discharged with ability and general approbation. In little more than a year, this administration gave way to a motley and discordant group of Whigs and Tories, the latter of whom were accused of acting under the *secret influence* of the favourite Lord Bute, who had not courage to avow himself any longer the adviser of measures, to the execution of which a considerable degree of responsibility was necessarily annexed. The Duke of Grafton, though for a short time the ostensible leader of the new administration, soon surrendered his situation

tion to Lord North, who persevered in the system of favouritism till he involved the country in a war with France, Spain, and Holland; lost America, and doubled the debt of the nation. During the whole of this momentous interval, from 1767 to 1782, the Duke of Richmond was one of the most active opponents of all those measures which tended to involve his country in ruin. He was closely united with the Rockingham party, but he went beyond most of the Whigs in his zeal for the principles of civil and political liberty. In 1781, he introduced into parliament a project for an annual and equal representation of the people, which has been admired and applauded by many of the wisest and most virtuous characters of the country.

His plan was to make the election of the representatives of the people annual, and the right of voting universal.

The kingdom of Great Britain was to be divided into five hundred districts; each district to contain an equal population, and to choose one member.

The election to begin and end in one day,

The people to be registered in each district three months before the election, with their profession, trade, or employment, and the street or place of their abode.

To give their votes in the parish-church of their residence before the church-wardens, who were to close the poll at the setting of the sun on the day the election was to commence, and deliver the same, personally, to the sheriff of the district, who was to

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sum up the whole on that day se'nnight, at the most central town of the district, and make his return of the person who had a majority of the suffrages of the people.

Every male person in the country, who had attained the age of twenty-one years (criminals and insane persons only excepted), to have a vote in the election of the representatives of the people.

At this time his Grace was at the head of the Constitutional Society, a member of the committees of the county of Sussex and city of Westminster, appointed to effect a parliamentary reform, and one of the nine delegates elected by the latter body to meet an equal number of delegates from each of the other committees constituted for the same purpose, to form a convention of the whole, in order to pursue the most effectual means for carrying this popular measure into effect.

At the assembly of the delegates, the Duke of Richmond was unanimously chosen president. They denominated themselves "the Convention of Delegates from the respective Committees constituted for obtaining a Reform in the State of the Representation of the People in Parliament," and displayed the most ardent and commendable zeal in the prosecution of an object so truly important.

Upon the fall of Lord North from power, and the overthrow of the Tory system in April 1782, the Marquis of Rockingham and the Whigs returned into office, and the Duke of Richmond was appointed master-general of the ordnance, and received the honour

honour of the Garter. This administration was divided and annihilated in little more than three months after its commencement, in consequence of the unfortunate death of its leader. The Marquis of Lansdown was appointed first lord of the Treasury, and all the cabinet-ministers resigned, except the Duke of Richmond, Duke of Grafton, and General Conway. The Whigs had pledged themselves to the people to effect two grand measures—a parliamentary reform and the conclusion of peace with America. In vain did the new administration profess the same principle and promise to pursue the same measures. The greatest part of the Rockingham party, comprising Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, the Duke of Portland, Lord Fitzwilliam, the Cavendish family, Mr. Windham, Lord Keppel, and all the leaders, formed a coalition with Lord North and the discarded administration, and, composing a considerable majority in the two Houses of Parliament, at the opening of the ensuing session, compelled the Marquis of Lansdown to resign. Upon this memorable occasion, the Duke of Richmond took the lead in a new Opposition with the Marquis of Lansdown, Mr. Pitt, the Earl of Liverpool (then Mr. Charles Jenkinson), and Mr. Dundas; a still more heterogeneous and discordant combination than the party they opposed. In less than ten months, however, this new party, with the assistance of the court-influence, and the unpopularity of the coalition, united in themselves all the efficient powers of government, which they have held ever since,

since, while the Duke of Richmond resumed his place at the head of the ordnance. The great desideratum of a reform in parliament was still considered as so far from being abandoned, that Mr. Pitt, the new minister, became its champion, and brought it forward three successive years in the House of Commons. Even Mr. Dundas was converted to its merits, and his name is to be found among the minority who divided in its favour. Thus supported by eloquence and power in parliament, and by the united voice of the country out of doors, it will astonish those who are not complete masters of the subject, how a measure of such universal popularity, so evidently calculated to harmonize the people, and make them adore their constitution and government, should have so repeatedly failed of success.

The Duke of Richmond, upon introducing his Reform-Bill in the House of Lords, declared, that "his reasons in favour of a parliamentary reform were formed on the experience of twenty-six years, which, whether *in or out of government*, had equally convinced him, that the restoration of a genuine House of Commons, by a renovation of the rights of the people, was the only remedy against that system of corruption which had brought the nation to disgrace and poverty, and threatened it with the loss of liberty." He continued to exert himself as the most strenuous supporter of the measure, till the year 1784, when the meetings of the county and town committees were discontinued, the correspondence between them ceased, and the assembly

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or convention of delegates, of which the Duke was president, became insensibly annihilated.

His Grace's letters to the volunteers of Ireland are in the hands of most people. His style of writing and speaking is clear, manly, and full of intelligence. As a politician and a statesman, few men are so well informed. As a military character, his system of fortification has been much ridiculed; but the severest reproach that has been aimed at his public character has been that of apostacy from his public and avowed principles. This reproach, however, candour obliges us to remark, has never been satisfactorily substantiated.

In 1795, his Grace resigned the office of master-general of the ordnance, and received the command of the royal regiment of Horse-Guards, blue; and has since obtained the bishopric of Chichester for his friend and domestic chaplain Dr. Buckner. His Grace is lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county of Sussex, a field-marshal, high steward of Chichester, colonel of the Sussex militia, and fellow of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Richmond is much attached to literary pursuits, and was distinguished, particularly during his intimacy with the late Field-Marshal Conway, for his patronage of the fine arts. With his secession from political discussion, a secession from every kind of activity as a public character seems to have taken place, and he now lives a retired life principally at Goodwood. His character in private life is truly respectable. As a sincere friend,

friend, an affectionate brother, and a fond relative, zealous to promote the interest of every branch of his family; his Grace has seldom been surpassed.

C.

MRS. ABINGTON.

IF to have enriched "the public stock of harmless pleasure," and to have soothed the cares of life by the fleeting effusions of mimic gaiety, merit honourable notice, the subject of the present biographical sketch is not without just claims to grateful mention and general praise.

Mrs. Abington, whose maiden-name was Barton, made her *début* in the Haymarket-Theatre under the management of the celebrated Theophilus Cibber, who, in 1752, obtained a licence from the Lord-Chamberlain to perform plays at that house. She had not attained her seventeenth year when, encouraged by the high opinion entertained of her talents by the manager, and several judicious critics who had attended her rehearsals in private, she was induced to offer herself as a candidate for public favour in the character of Miranda in the comedy of the *Busy Body*. Her success was adequate to the most sanguine expectations of her friends, and she was afterwards engaged in the Bath company, then under the direction of that excellent comedian, Mr. King, of Drury-Lane Theatre, who was then acting-manager. At the end of the following summer, she was seen on the Richmond stage, in one of her

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principal characters, by Mr. Lacy, one of the patentees of Old Drury, who immediately engaged her for the winter season. Her first part was *Lady Pliant*, and she was received with unbounded applause. Here she married Mr. Abington; and, seeing but a faint prospect of rising to eminence in her profession, while the chief characters, to which she aspired, were in the possession of Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Cibber, and more particularly of Mrs. Pritchard, she agreed to very advantageous proposals made to her by Messieurs Barry and Woodward, who had opened a theatre in Crow-Street, Dublin, in opposition to that in Smock-Alley, under the management of Mr. Sheridan. She accordingly repaired to Dublin a short time before the close of the season of 1759, and soon became a distinguished favourite with the Irish public.

The celebrity she acquired in Ireland soon reached London, and the public became desirous to behold the improvements of an actress whose first essays had given so much pleasure. She was accordingly engaged by Mr. Garrick, at a considerable salary, on his return from his continental excursion; and, from her appearance at that time in the *Widow Belmour*, to the year 1782, she performed *Lady Fanciful*, in the *Provoked Wife*; *Araminta*, in the *School for Lovers*; *Belinda*, in *All in the Wrong*; *Biddy Tipkin*, in the *Tender Husband*; the second *Constantia*; *Millamant*; *Miss Prue*; *Beatrice*; *Estifania*; *Clarinda*; with a variety of other leading parts; and her claims to distinction, as the principal

incipal favourite of Thalia, were universally acknowledged. She was the original representative of Lady Alton, in the *English Merchant*; Charlotte, in the *Hypocrite*; Miss Rusport, in the *West Indian*; Lady Bab Lardoon, in the *Maid of the Oaks*; Roxalana, in the *Sultan*; Lady Teazle, in the *School for Scandle*; and Miss Hoyden, in the *Trip to Scarborough*, altered by Mr. Sheridan from Vanbrugh's comedy of the *Relapse*.

Some differences arising at this time between Mrs. Abington and the Drury-Lane proprietors, which it was found impossible to adjust to the satisfaction of both parties, she was engaged by Mr. Harris on very liberal terms. From the season of 1782-83, she continued, for several years, under the management of that gentleman, to delight the *amateurs* of the drama with the versatility of her powers; and, after a long secession from the London boards, during which she performed on the Dublin stage, she was induced, by the advice of her friends and the solicitation of the manager, to resume her situation in Covent-Garden Theatre in the season of 1797-98.

Though she certainly had lost much of the charms of face and the graces of person, that so peculiarly contribute to the embellishment of the poet's text, and without which the sense of the author and the expression of the actor are at variance, and tend to remind an audience, that the business of the scene is a fiction, she retained her former spirited action,

her natural elegance of delivery, and was received with the most enthusiastic marks of public favour.

Her last performance in public was for the benefit of Mr. Pope, in her favourite part of Lady Racket, in *Three Weeks after Marriage*. She performed the character of Lady Fanciful, at *Brandenburgh-House*, to a select auditory, when the Margravine and Miss Berkeley appeared in *Lady Brute and Belinda*.

With respect to the former merits of Mrs. Abington, there exists but one opinion. Her professional attractions were truly captivating, and she had the happy art of displaying, in various lines, comic rusticity and exquisite humour, the graceful ease of the accomplished woman of fashion, and the capricious airs of the fantastical coquette. Her late performances have produced some difference of sentiment. When she appeared, the captiousness of criticism was on the watch to discover defects, not to applaud beauties; and it was objected to Mrs. Abington, without making any candid allowance for a retirement of many years, and the unavoidable ravages of time, that she no longer possessed all those theatrical requisites for which she had once been so eminently distinguished. Her person and countenance are certainly much altered, but she still retains attractions of the first order—unaffected ease, spirited elegance, and delicate discrimination. The natural manner in which she delivers her dialogue cannot be too highly praised. There is no study, no labour, no painful exertion to command attention, which reflection

flection must ever condemn ; and, like the celebrated French actor, *Baron*, whose talents triumphed over age and infirmity, she affords a striking proof, to use the language of one of her encomiasts of no mean reputation in the dramatic world, that

Nature, charming Nature, is eternal !

The conduct of Mrs. Abington in private life is uncommonly engaging. Her conversation abounds in lively and instructive anecdote, and she has the honour of ranking among the number of her friends some of the most distinguished and respectable persons in both kingdoms.

J. N.

MR. SAURIN,

THE IRISH ADVOCATE.

THIS gentleman claims a place among public characters on two grounds ;—first, as being the leading man in point of reputation and practice at the Irish bar ; and, next, as having been the first, the most active, and, perhaps, the most efficient opponent of a legislative union.

To the universality of the maxim that envy is the constant concomitant of merit, Mr. Saurin affords one exception ; for, whether we consider him as a man in private life, or as a professional man in public, he stands in the first rank ; and yet there is, perhaps, no man who has suffered less from the envy of competitors, or against whom Malice has less industriously directed her shafts.

Combined with great talents and profound legal learning, there is in Mr. Saurin a modesty of demeanour, an unassuming gentleness, and general propriety of conduct, which either disarms malevolence or protects him against its assaults.

Mr. Saurin is the descendant of a French family, which appear to have held a reputable rank in life. His elder brother was for many years a captain of dragoons, and at present, besides his half-pay, enjoys the lucrative office of land-waiter of the port of Dublin; a place of which the average profits are reckoned at 800*l.* per annum. Of Mr. Saurin's younger days, nothing remarkable is related: he passed through the ordinary stages of school and college education without exciting much observation, and came to the bar with no other *éclat* than what was produced by the steady operation of sound sense and mild manners. Soon after, Mr. Saurin paid his addresses to a young lady of the name of Ormsby, who seemed to listen with complacency, if not pleasure, to the soft flowing tones* of the young barrister. For a very considerable period he contrived to prosecute his suit: his pleadings were drawn out to a great length. The lady generally demurred without shewing any special cause; and, though it was highly probable that issue would at length be joined between the parties, yet some temporary bar generally stood in the way of a final decision. While the affair was

* One of Mr. Saurin's distinguishing traits is the placid and smooth uniformity of his tones and diction.

thus protracted by the art or the irresolution of the lady, an event happened which wholly frustrated Mr. Saurin's expectations. A very rich relation of Miss Ormsby's died, and a large estate, of which she had hitherto no near expectancy, became vested in her. A young lawyer, but just beginning to make his way in the world, appeared now to be quite an unfit match for Miss Ormsby. He was, therefore, informed that his visits as a suitor of that lady were no longer acceptable, and the lady herself was immediately sent to Limeric, the place near which her newly-acquired property lay. Here she became acquainted with Mr. Perry, then the nephew and heir of Lord Glentworth, bishop of Limeric, and who has since succeeded to the title and estate of his lordship. Mr. Perry addressed her with more success than the disappointed Saurin; they were speedily married; and the discarded lover left to lament or to declaim against the fickleness of woman.

Mr. Saurin happily was too phlegmatic to sicken at this disappointment, or renounce the sex because he had been rejected or cajoled by one of them. He sought a remedy for disappointed love, by addressing another lady, in whom he hoped for more candour and more kindness. Lady Cox was the person to whom he now offered himself and his fortunes, such as they were. His offer was accepted. The marriage took place; and, though neither of the parties possessed much wealth (indeed the joint fortunes of both scarcely afforded a competency), yet the prudence, economy, and increasing practice of

Mr. Saurin, soon made up the deficiency, and abundantly furnished means of domestic comfort and honourable independence. Within a very few years after his marriage, the uncommon industry and great talents of Mr. Saurin became conspicuous, and procured for him the most extensive and lucrative business which the Irish chancery afforded.

Among the Irish barristers, it has been perhaps truly observed, that there exists much too strong a passion for obtaining a seat in parliament, and endeavouring to rise rather by their political than by their professional labours. Mr. Saurin has never been affected with this kind of spurious ambition. Since he became eminent as a lawyer, he has often been solicited to accept a seat in parliament, and support with his powers a government, which for many years back appears to have wanted all the talent, as well as all the influence, they could collect to keep them afloat. He resisted those solicitations, and has preferred the tranquil enjoyments of domestic life, uninterrupted by the contention of political struggles, to the emoluments and rank of high office, and to the still more plausible and imposing rewards of popularity. Though the Irish government found themselves unable to enlist Mr. Saurin among their active and parliamentary partizans, they nevertheless continued to pay him the respect which they conceived to be due to his talents and his virtues. In the administration of Lord Camden, he was honoured with a patent of precedence, which gives him a right of pre-audience in the courts immediately after his Majesty's

Majesty's prime-sergeant. This was indeed but a just token of respect for the alacrity and zeal with which he promoted the plan for forming a military corps from among the members of the Irish bar, shortly previous to the first attempt of the French on the coast of Ireland, by which an example was set to the rest of the loyal people of the country, which was followed with much promptness. Of that corps Mr. Saurin was elected first captain; and bestowed on its interests and discipline the most unremitting attention.

It was not, however, till the project of an union between the two countries was taken up by the administration, that they seriously set about procuring the sanction and assistance of Mr. Saurin. To obtain his support, in that measure particularly, they shewed the most solicitous anxiety; probably because they knew or believed that the opinion of that gentleman would have great weight in regulating the opinion of the Irish bar, who were known to think so highly of his integrity and his talents. If it were with that view they wished to secure his support, they appear to have acted prudently; for, to the almost unanimous opposition of the bar, an unanimity greatly owing to the example, influence, and the reasoning of Mr. Saurin, the first defeat of that measure may be fairly attributed.

On that important occasion, it is said with great confidence, that administration offered to Mr. Saurin not only the prime-sergeantcy, when it should become vacant, but the place of attorney-general on the next promotion.

promotion. This offer Mr. Saurin is said to have declined; and it is also stated, that he was then offered the reversion of the chancery. Instead, however, of accepting these munificent offers, for which he was to advise and promote measures which, in his opinion, surrendered the constitution and independence of his country, Mr. Saurin suggested to some of his brethren at the bar the necessity of calling a meeting of the barristers to consider the question of Union, which, as it had been officially announced, was to be proposed to the Irish parliament in the ensuing session. A requisition was accordingly signed by a number of the most eminent characters in the profession, and among them Mr. Saurin, desiring a full meeting of the bar on a certain day, to declare their sense respecting the agitation of that momentous subject. The meeting was accordingly held, and most numerous attended. Mr. Saurin opened the business of the meeting in a speech, not long, but marked by that ingenious address which peculiarly distinguishes him. In this speech he shortly and forcibly stated or insinuated almost every argument which has been urged against an union, and concluded by a resolution, declaring it unwise and unnecessary at that time to agitate the question. A long discussion followed, which terminated in a division, on which there appeared a vast majority in support of Mr. Saurin's resolution. The exertions of the bar against the measure, led as they were by Mr. Saurin, did not terminate in that effort. A swarm of energetic well-written pamphlets, from the
leading

leading members of the profession, for some months afterwards continued to enlighten and animate the public mind on that subject ; and a periodical paper, called the **ANTI-UNION**, confined exclusively to that topic, and written with much zeal, much information, and great talent, contributed in no small degree to confirm the public, and, perhaps, the commons themselves, in their reprobation of a legislative union. This paper was conducted and supported by four or five barristers, the intimate friends of Mr. Saurin, who were guided in their management of it chiefly by him, though, from the pressure of professional business, he was himself unable to fill many of its pages.

His conduct on this great occasion made Mr. Saurin more than ever a favourite with the public, and of his own profession made him almost the idol. A meeting of the bar was again summoned, for the purpose of marking to the public the estimation in which his brethren held his character and his services to them and to the country. The meeting came to resolutions which must have been in the highest degree flattering to him, and which were certainly founded in justice. At present Mr. Saurin continues to sustain the high character which he thus acquired by private and public virtue. He continues still to confine himself to his professional avocations, beyond which he stepped only on the single and most important occasion, when the liberty and independence of his country appeared to him to be assailed. Though Mr. Saurin has uniformly reprobated
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the Union, in common with many other virtuous patriots, the merits of that great national event are not affected by it. Many great and good men did the same when the union took place between England and Scotland, and regarded the measure as fatal to the latter country; but time has proved that their fears were the chimeras of a heated imagination carried away by prejudices.

Mr. Saurin is low in stature; his countenance is characteristic of French origin; and, if the physiognomist be not rather influenced by what he knows *a priori* of the man, than by what he infers only from the visage of his subject, it bespeaks strongly a cool and sound judgment, a sagacious understanding, and a good heart. He said to make considerably more in his profession than any other man at the Irish bar. There appears, however, no obvious or shining excellence in his manner of discharging his forensic duties. His diction is plain, but correct; his manner cool, disquisitional, and quite unimpassioned. His great merit as a bar-orator consists in the ingenuity of his statements, his colouring, his selection of facts, and his judicious arrangement of matter. He possesses a very strong memory, sound judgment, great legal knowledge, the result of laborious and early reading, and he is, above all, characterized for a degree of attention to business to which even a young and a poor man is seldom found to submit.

It may not be needless to mention here the eloquent M. Saurin, the Protestant preacher at the Hague in the reign of William the Third, as it is likely

likely the family stock of both was the same. So great was his popularity, that the street in which his church stood used to be crowded with carriages long before the church-doors were opened. His sermons are the finest models of pulpit eloquence to be found in any language.

DR. SAMUEL ARNOLD.

THIS gentleman, whose professional celebrity was so early acquired, and which has been so long and so deservedly maintained, received his musical education at the Chapel-Royal, St. James's, partly under the late Mr. Gates, and partly under his successor, Doctor Nares:

The strong indications he evinced, even in infancy, of a genius formed for the cultivation of the tuneful science, determined his parents to yield to the bias of nature, by placing him in some respectable harmonic seminary. The inviting prospect of future patronage, from the late princesses Amelia and Caroline, was at the same time an additional inducement with them to give the fullest scope in their power to that impulse of genius, which, under skilful masters, could not but be productive of future honour and emolument to its possessor; and, at the express desire of those illustrious personages, he was at the usual age of admission placed in the King's Chapel. His ardent perseverance in study daily afforded the most convincing proofs that music was the science for which nature had designed him, and justified the choice his parents had made.

Mr.

Mr. Gates and Doctor Nares were masters of respectable abilities, and consequently knew how to appreciate and encourage dawning talents. The former of these gentlemen was, indeed, so partial to his assiduous and promising pupil, that he constantly distinguished him by marks of his particular favour, and at his death left him a legacy. From industry, combined with real genius, resulted that rapid progress which at once rewards and propels the aspiring student; and young Mr. Arnold, before he had reached manhood, rendered himself, by his taste and science, an ornament to the profession to which the future study of his life was to be devoted.

About the year 1760, Mr. Beard, of vocal celebrity, and at that time one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre, became acquainted with Mr. Arnold, and was so sensible of his extraordinary merit, as to be glad to avail himself of his talents by introducing him to the notice of the public as composer to that house. That justly admired and unaffected imitator of nature possessed all that simplicity of taste and chasteness of manner so happily calculated to draw forth the efforts of genuine ability; and, in composing for such a singer, Mr. Arnold necessarily adopted that strength and purity of melody calculated to touch the heart, and to which most of the nerveless and unnatural strains of later days do not seem even to pretend.

True genius, like the eagle, feels its power of superior flight, and disdains the tract of mediocrity! It is, therefore, no wonder that Mr. Arnold, after his
success

success with the *Maid of the Mill* and several other compositions, should feel the impulse to exert his talents upon an oratorio. The *Cure of Saul*, written by the late Rev. Dr. Brown, offered itself to his contemplation; and, in the year 1767, he made choice of that excellent poem for his first effort in the higher style of musical composition. In this attempt he so happily succeeded, that it was universally allowed to be the greatest production in its kind since the time of the immortal Handel. Mr. Arnold, who had never suffered his private interest to come in competition with the public good, generously made a present of this work to the Society instituted for the Benefit of decayed Musicians and their Families; and it proved to that society a most valuable acquisition. The fund had greatly sunk, and the receipts of their annual concerts were still decreasing. The *Cure of Saul*, however, attracted crowded audiences, and contributed to the restoration of that success and prosperity which had formerly marked the progress of that highly laudable institution. The distinguished honour with which Mr. Arnold had acquitted himself in the arduous task of composing an oratorio encouraged him to proceed; and soon after gave birth to a second production of the same kind, called *Abimelech*, which was succeeded by the *Resurrection* and the *Prodigal Son*. The latter three of these oratorios were, during several successive Lents, performed at the Theatre Royal in the Haymarket, and Covent-Garden Theatre, under his own management and direction. His first enterprise was in the Haymarket,

market, at play-house prices, and succeeded so far as to induce him to quit the Little Theatre. But the second speculation was not equally favourable. The plan on which he proceeded was certainly judicious; and, had he not been opposed by a powerful court-interest at Drury-Lane, must have answered his most sanguine expectations; but, from that opposition, together with his enormous expences, and other unforeseen causes, it proved an unfortunate adventure. About the time that he wrote the Resurrection, he composed and published in score four sets of Vauxhall songs, the greater part of which are uncommonly sweet in their melodies, and in their accompaniments display much richness of taste, aided by a thorough acquaintance with the characters and powers of the various instruments. Of all his oratorios, the Prodigal Son reflects the greatest portion of honour on his talents and judgment. It is, indeed, for the most part, conceived in a manly and noble style, and exhibits much of that greatness and sublimity of mind indispensable to the production of oratorical composition. It formed a splendid addition to that laurel he had already so fairly earned, and gave him an indisputable station in that rank of composers which only true genius, cultivated by profound science, can ever hope to attain. The fame of this sacred drama was so high, that when, in 1773, it was in contemplation to instal the late Lord North chancellor of the university of Oxford, the stewards appointed to conduct the musical department of the ceremony, applied to the composer of the Prodigal Son for permission to perform

perform that oratorio on the solemn occasion. Mr. Arnold's ready and polite acquiescence with this request procured him the offer of an honorary degree in the theatre; but, conscious of his own scientific qualifications, he preferred the academical mode; and, conformably to the statutes of the university, received it in the school-room, where he performed, as an exercise, Hughes's poem on the Power of Music. On such occasions, it is usual for the musical professor of the university to examine the exercise of the candidate; but Doctor William Hayes, then professor of Oxford, returned Mr. Arnold his score unopened, saying, "Sir, it is quite unnecessary to scrutinize the exercise of the author of the *Prodigal Son*."

In the year 1771 Doctor Arnold married Miss Napier, daughter of Archibald Napier, Doctor in Physic, with which lady he received a handsome fortune. About the same year he purchased, of Mr. Pinto, Marybone-Gardens, then the much-frequented scene of gaiety and fashion. For the better entertainment of the public, the Doctor furnished the gardens with a scenic stage, and composed and performed some excellent burlettas, which were most favourably received. These short, but pleasing pieces, while they evinced his versatile powers as a composer, assisted to display the vocal abilities of Miss Harper (now Mrs. Bannister), Miss Catley, Miss Brown (afterwards Mrs. Cargil), Mrs. Barthelemon, Mr. Charles Bannister, Mr. Reinhold, and many other respectable and well-known London performers. Ever anxious to merit

1799-1800. O that

that attention and encouragement with which the public distinguished his exertions to gratify the general taste, Doctor Arnold, at a very great expence, engaged, for the use of the gardens, the assistance of that ingenious artist Signor Torr , whose fire-works excited the admiration of all who witnessed their beauty and magnificence; and whose representation of the Cave of Vulcan was allowed by all connoisseurs in the art to be the most striking and stupendous performance ever exhibited in this country. In 1776 the lease of the gardens expired; and that delightful spot, to which the votaries of taste and innocent pleasure had so long resorted, was, by the proprietors, let to various builders, and soon after converted into an integral part of the metropolis.

When Mr. Beard, after many years of meritorious public service, retired to the enjoyment of a well-earned competency, the late Mr. George Colman became his successor as one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre. The classical and discriminating mind of this gentleman and scholar felt and acknowledged the sterling abilities of Doctor Arnold; and he was desirous to retain so valuable an acquisition to the house. The place of composer to his theatre could not be better occupied than by a master whose merit the town had already so strongly stamped with the sanction of its approbation.

About the year 1776 the English Aristophanes quitted the stage, and Mr. Colman, having sufficient interest to procure the continuance of the patent, purchased the Haymarket Theatre. Unwilling to

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lose the tributary service of those talents, by which he had already so greatly profited, he engaged Doctor Arnold to conduct the musical department in his new concern.

On the death of the late Doctor Nares, which happened early in the year 1783, Doctor Arnold was appointed his successor as organist and composer to his Majesty's chapel at St. James's, to which honourable office he was sworn in on March the 1st of the same year; and, at the grand performances of the commemoration of Handel, at Westminster Abbey, the first of which took place in 1784, the Doctor was appointed one of the sub-directors of that celebrity, and presented with a medal which his Majesty has permitted the sub-directors to wear at all times, as a mark of his approbation of their conduct on that great and magnificent occasion. In the year 1786 Doctor Arnold projected and entered upon the plan of publishing an uniform edition of the whole of Handel's works; and proceeded in this arduous undertaking to the hundred and eighteenth number, going through all his productions, except in Italian operas. He also, at the same time, published four volumes of cathedral music, forming a continuation of Doctor Boyce's great and well-known work. Three of the volumes are in score for the voices, and one for the organ.

In November 1789, it was resolved by the subscribers to the Academy of Antient Music to place their performance more fully under the direction of some professional gentleman of eminence. On this

occasion, Doctor Arnold, Doctor Cooke, and Doctor Dupuis, were severally nominated candidates, when Doctor Arnold was elected by a great majority, and invested with the entire direction and management of the orchestra, the authority of hiring of instruments, engaging performers, and of doing whatever else related to the concert; the committee pledging itself to indemnify the conductor for all expences. The management of this respectable institution continued in the Doctor's hands, with the highest credit to himself, and the greatest satisfaction to the academicians and subscribers.

In 1796, the Doctor was applied to, to succeed the late Dr. Phillip Hayes as conductor of the annual performances at St. Paul's for the Feast of the Sons of the Clergy; in which situation he well supported his high professional character.

Doctor Arnold has had five children, of whom, two daughters and one son are now living. His eldest daughter is married to Mr. Rose, a gentleman engaged in mercantile business. Mr. Samuel Arnold is the author of several musical dramas, most of which have been flatteringly received; and he has written a novel entitled "The Creole." But the circumstance the most worthy of remark is, the rapid and extraordinary progress he made in his profession of a portrait-painter. But at this the reader will be less surprised, when told that that excellent artist, Mr. Beachey, on examining Mr. Arnold's first effort in this way, declared that he never before saw such a *first picture*.

It is a truth highly honourable to Doctor Arnold, that the exercise of his professional talents were not confined to the public amusement and his own private emolument. The prosperity of those numerous charities which distinguish this country, and reflect so much honour on their several founders, engrossed much of his attention; and many a handsome collection has, in a great measure, been derived from his voluntary and gratuitous assistance. By the kindly aid of that science which some consider as trivial, or as an useless luxury, and only calculated to excite the looser passions, he succoured the most philanthropic and noble institutions, and contributed to "feed the hungry and clothe the naked.*"

Independently of his professional excellencies, Doctor Arnold possessed many qualities which entitled him to the esteem of society. His genius and science procured him a numerous circle of friends; and his social and amiable disposition constantly preserved them. His conversation was pleasant and unaffected; his heart was framed to feel for the distress of others; and his friendship was zealous and sincere.

The following is a correct catalogue of his voluminous works.

* Doctor Samuel Arnold died the 13th of October 1802, at his house in Duke-Street, Westminster; and his remains were interred with every mark of respect in Westminster Abbey.

ORATORIOS.

The Cure of Saul.
Abimelech.

The Resurrection.
The Prodigal Son, of London.

ODES.

The Jesuit.

To Music.

To the Haymakers.

To Night.

On the Queen's Birth-Day.

To Humanity.

Prince of Wales's Birth-Day.

On Shakspeare.

SERENATAS.

Hercules and Omphale.
Apollo.

Theseus and Pelæus.

OPERAS.

The Maid of the Mill.
Rosamond.
April-Day.
The Castle of Andalusia.
Lilliput.
The Son-in-Law.
The Weather-Cock.
Summer Amusement.
The Agreeable Surprise.
The Dead Alive.
Julius Cæsar.
The Silver Tankard.
True Blue.
The Spanish Barber.
The Blind Man.
Tom Jones.
The Prince of Arragon.
Two to One.
Turk and no Turk.
The Siege of Curzola.
Inle and Yarico.
The Battle of Hexham.
Gretna-Green.

Fire and Water.
Hunt the Slipper.
The Wedding Night.
The Baron.
The Female Dramatist.
The Garland.
Surrender of Calais.
The Mountaineers.
The Shipwreck.
Auld Robin Gray.
Apollo turned Stroller.
Who pays the Reckoning?
The Portrait.
Peeping Tom.
The Enraged Musician.
Arthur.
New Spain.
Throw Physic to the Dogs.
Children in the Wood.
Cambro-Britons.
Italian Monk.
False and True.
The Hovel.

B U R L E T T A S.

The Magnet.

Don Quixote.

The Cure for Dotage.

Overtures, Concertos, Trios, Canzonets, Single Songs, Catches,
Glees, and Lessons for the Harpsichord or Piano Forte.

IN MANUSCRIPT.

Various Services and Anthems composed for public Charities, and
for the immediate use of his Majesty's Chapels.

 ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT.

THIS veteran officer was the son of the late vicar of Thorncombe, in Devonshire, and the younger brother of Lord Hood, a memoir of whom appears in another volume of this work. He received, we believe, his principal education under the immediate eye of his parent.

Lord Bridport entered early into the naval service; and, having only his own merit and diligence to trust to, in respect to his future prospects, his subsequent eminence forms the highest panegyric on his character.

On the 2d of December 1746, he was made a lieutenant; and on the 10th of June 1756 was promoted to be post-captain of the Prince George, of 90 guns. In 1757 he was appointed to the Antelope, of 50 guns; and, being on a cruize in the month of May, on the coast of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French frigate, of 48 guns and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Cap-

tain Hood drove her on the rocks in Audierne-Bay, where she was totally lost. The enemy had thirty men killed, and thirteen wounded. The *Antelope* had three killed, and thirteen wounded.*

In 1758 Captain Hood served in the Mediterranean on board the *St. George*, of 90 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Saunders, part of the fleet under the command of Admiral Osborne. He was present on the 28th of February, when the French admiral Du Quesne, in attempting to reinforce De la Clue, was blocked up in the harbour of Carthage. Captain Hood returned from the Mediterranean with Rear-Admiral Saunders, and arrived at Spithead on the 5th of July. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed to command the *Minerva* frigate, of 32 guns. During the greater part of 1759 he served under Commodore Duff, who was employed to block up the French transports in the Morbion. Captain Hood also captured the *Ecureuil*, a Bayonne privateer, of 14 guns and 122 men; but he did not obtain any fresh addition of laurels till the beginning of the year 1761. On the 23d of January of that year, cruising near Cape Pinas, which bore S. by E. thirty leagues, a large sail was discerned from the *Minerva* soon after day-break. Captain Hood im-

* During this action, a midshipman of the name of Murray had both his legs shot away. He was immediately carried down to the surgeon; but, whilst his wounds were dressing, hearing three cheers from the crew, and concluding the enemy's ship had struck, the ebbing spirit of his life instantly rallied; and, waving his hand in triumph, the gallant youth expired!

mediately

mediately gave orders to chase. His antagonist was the Warwick, an old English ship, pierced for 60 guns and mounting 34, commanded by M. Le Verger de Belair. Her crew amounted to about three hundred men, including a company of soldiers, which were destined to reinforce the garrison at Pondicherry. It was past ten before the Minerva came up with her; when Captain Hood, notwithstanding his inferiority, ran alongside, and began the engagement. The fire on both sides was terrible. "At eleven," says Captain Hood, in his dispatches, "her main and fore-top mast went away, and soon after she came on board us on the starboard bow, and then fell alongside; but the sea soon parted us, when the enemy fell astern. About a quarter after eleven, the Minerva's bowsprit went away, and the fore-mast soon followed it; these were very unfortunate accidents, and I almost despaired of being able to attack the enemy again. However, I cut the wreck away as soon as possible; and, about one o'clock cleared the ship of it, with the loss of one man and the sheet anchor. I then wore the ship, and stood for the enemy, who was about three leagues to leeward of me. At four o'clock I came up close to the enemy and renewed the attack. About a quarter before five she struck; when I found she had fourteen killed, and thirty-two wounded. Our numbers are, the boatswain and thirteen killed, and the gunner and thirty-three wounded: the former and two seamen died on the 27th. I have given my thanks to the officers and crew of his Majesty's

Majesty's ship for their firm and spirited behaviour; and I have great pleasure in acquainting their lordships with it. At nine o'clock the main-mast of the *Minerva* went away; at eleven the mizen-mast followed it."

Captain Hood rose, by this gallant action, high in the estimation of his sovereign and the public. It gave celebrity to his character, and placed his merit as an officer above the common level. He was, in consequence, appointed, in August 1761, to command part of the squadron destined to convey the present queen to England. After the peace of Paris in 1763, he obtained a guardship at Portsmouth; and in 1766, soon after the usual period of his command had elapsed, succeeded Sir Charles Saunders as the treasurer of Greenwich-Hospital.

On the prospect of hostilities with France, he sailed from St. Helen's on the 8th of June 1778, in the *Robust* of 74 guns, being part of the grand Channel fleet under the command of Admiral Keppel. On the 28th they returned into port, with the French frigates *Pallas* and *Licorne*, which had been captured; and they sailed again on Friday the 10th of July. The Brest fleet, consisting of thirty-two sail, five frigates and five gondolas, had also in the interim put to sea. After some days spent in manœuvring, the action between the two fleets commenced off Ushant on the 27th of July. The winds were constantly in the N. W. and S. W. sometimes blowing strong, and the French fleet being always to windward, kept aloof. The French began their
fire

fire on the 27th upon the headmost of Vice-Admiral Harland's division; and the two fleets, being on different tacks, passed very near each other, engaging sharply along the whole line. Towards the close of day, the enemy formed their fleet again; a proceeding which Admiral Keppel did not prevent, as he conceived they meant handsomely to meet him the next morning. He was, however, disappointed in this expectation, as they took the advantage of the night, and on the following morning were out of sight. Captain Hood was stationed in the line, in the blue division, as second to its admiral, Sir Hugh Palliser. The Robust, on the morning of the 27th, had been ordered with other ships, by signal from the Victory, to chase to windward; and, during the subsequent action, she was rather severely handled by the enemy. A large shot went through the main-mast, two through the fore-mast, two struck the bowsprit, and one slightly wounded the mizen-mast. The main-topmast was shot in two or three places; the main-topsail-yard shot away; the fore-topgallant-mast shot in two; the mizen yard received two shot, and besides she had received about fourteen shot under water, one of which being a forty-eight pounder, rendered the situation of the crew dangerous; and it was eight o'clock in the evening before they could stop the leak. The sails of the Robust were much cut; most of the braces, bow-lines, and running rigging, with many of the lower and topmast yards, and two of the starboard lower-deck ports, were shot away. Notwithstanding, however,

however, that this ship was so much damaged, she was fought so judiciously, that only five men were killed and seventeen wounded. Captain Hood returned with the fleet to Spithead on the 28th of October, and did not go to sea again until he obtained an admiral's flag.

The subsequent trials of the two commanders, Lord Keppel and Sir Hugh Palliser, and the part taken by Sir Alexander Hood on the occasion, drew upon him much popular odium at the time. He was, however, on the 26th of September 1780, appointed Rear-Admiral of the White; and having, in 1782, hoisted his flag on board the Queen, of 90 guns, he was appointed to command the second, or larboard, division of the centre squadron in the grand fleet, which was sent under the command of Lord Howe to relieve Gibraltar. On the 19th of October, Lord Howe, having effected the object of his voyage, took the advantage of a fair wind to re-pass the Streights. He was followed by the combined fleet of the enemy, consisting of forty-six sail of the line. The British fleet being formed to leeward to receive them, the enemy were left to take the distance at which they chose to engage. The French division commenced its cannonade about sun-set on the van and rear, the chief attack being on the latter, and the fire was soon commenced along the whole line, at a considerable distance, and with little effect. It was returned occasionally from the ships of the British fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy afforded a favourable opportunity of making an impression upon

upon them; but, as the British commander had no orders to risk a general engagement, he kept his course all night in full sail, and thus the fleets separated.

The year following Rear-Admiral Hood was chosen member for the borough of Bridgewater, and, on the 7th of May 1788, he was invested with the order of the Bath. At the time of the apprehended rupture with Spain, on the 12th of May 1790, Admiral Hood's flag was hoisted on board the London, of 98 guns. On the 4th of July, he commanded the van division of Admiral Barrington's fleet in Torbay, with his flag on board the Victory, of 100 guns.

On the 1st of February 1793, Sir Alexander Hood was promoted to be vice-admiral of the red. During this year his flag continued on board the Royal George, with a command under Earl Howe in the Channel fleet. On the famous 1st of June, and on the preceding days, his ship was particularly distinguished. She commenced the action on the 29th of May, and, during that on the 1st of June, was exposed to an incessant cannonade. Sir Alexander, during the whole of this action, displayed in many instances his great skill and intrepidity. The foremast, with the fore and maintop mast, of the Royal George, were shot away, and she had twenty men killed, and seventy-two wounded. On his return, he was presented with the gold chain and medal, with the other flag-officers and captains of the victorious fleet, and was afterwards created Baron Bridport.

His

His Lordship acquired fresh laurels off L'Orient, in June 1795, in an engagement between the fleet he commanded and a fleet of the enemy. By a masterly manœuvre, he took in this affair three line of battle ships.

On the 31st of May 1796, Lord Bridport was made a peer of Great Britain; and when Lord Howe finally resigned the command of the Channel fleet, in 1797, it was conferred upon his Lordship, who held it with great credit to himself and his country.

His first wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. West, and niece to the late Lord Viscount Cobham. By this marriage he became related to the Pitt and Lytton families. His lady dying in September 1782, he was again married, on the 26th of June 1788, to Miss Bray, only daughter of the late Thomas Bray, Esq. of Edmonton.

Lord Bridport first learnt the principles of our naval service under the Admirals Smith and Saunders. Those persons who served under his command speak of him as their father, rather than as their superior officer. His name will certainly pass down to posterity among the Howes, the Rodneys, the Ansons, the Russells, the Blakes, the Vincents, the Duncans, and the illustrious list of other naval heroes, who have contributed to raise their country to its present height of distinction and glory.

K.

THE

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THE biography of an eminent statesman must necessarily be peculiarly interesting. It must in a great degree be the history of the times in which he flourished. It must record the events which owe their birth to his counsels or his authority. But it very rarely happens, as in the present instance, that those men whom nature has qualified for high and dignified stations exhibit in their personal character the pure and amiable affections, which, while they embellish their private lives, administer health and consistency to their public virtues.

The Marquis of Lansdown, the most considerable and enlightened statesman of his age, is descended in the male line from the house of Fitzgerald. Thomas Fitzmaurice, first Earl of Kerry, the offspring of a junior branch of the Leinster family, married Anne, daughter of the celebrated Sir William Petty, Knt. professor of anatomy in the university of Oxford, and who was one of the founders and first fellows of the Royal Society.*

* Sir *William Petty*, the son of Anthony Petty, a clothier at Rumsey, in Hampshire, was educated at the grammar-school there, and went to Paris to study anatomy. In 1647 he obtained a patent from the parliament, for seventeen years, to teach the *art of double writing*. In 1648 he acted as deputy to Doctor Clayton, professor of anatomy at Oxford, obtained the degree of Doctor of Physic, and was, in 1651, elected professor of anatomy. He soon after went to Ireland, as physician to the army; and, in 1654, entered into a contract

John Fitzmaurice, the second son by this marriage, and the father of the present Marquis of Lansdown, was created Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, in Ireland, and Baron Wycombe, in Great Britain, by his late Majesty George the Second, in 1753. The subject of these pages was created Marquis of Lansdown on the 30th of November, 1782. He bore a commission in the Guards early in life; and, during the seven-years war, served in Germany as a volunteer under the late Duke of Brunswick.*.

His Lordship was born in the same year as his present Majesty, and succeeded to his father's title in May 1761. He was afterwards appointed aid-de-camp to the King, and his military has since kept pace with his political rank: in 1763 we find him

contract for regulating the admeasurement of forfeited lands, by which he gained a considerable sum. He was also appointed clerk of the council in that kingdom. He improved his fortune very much by the purchase of soldiers' debentures; was knighted by Charles the Second in 1661, and was one of the first members of the Royal Society. He invented, soon after, a double-bottomed ship, which was tried and approved. It appears from his last will, that he estimated his real estate at 6,500*l.* per annum; his personal estate at about 45,000*l.* and the improvements of his Irish property at 4,000*l.* per annum. He left, in all, to the amount of 15,000*l.* a year.—A prodigious fortune acquired from so small a beginning! His writings on political economy, &c. are very numerous, scarce, and valuable.

* At the battle of Camper, and on other occasions, his Lordship evinced great personal courage. This quality afterwards served him when, in 1781, he was constrained to fight a duel with Colonel Fullarton, for words spoken in his place in parliament.

raised to be a major-general; in 1772 a lieutenant-general; and in 1783 he became a general in the British army.

It was probably owing to the early acquaintance he had cultivated with the late Earl of Chatham, that he became attached to the party of that great statesman; an attachment no less creditable to their talents and integrity than useful and honourable to their country. He was sworn first Lord of Trade and a Privy-Counsellor on the 16th of April 1763, the day on which Lord Bute's administration gave way to that of Mr. George Grenville.

On the 30th July 1766, he was appointed, in Mr. Pitt's administration, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, upon the resignation of the Duke of Richmond. He immediately took an efficient part in the administration, at that time denominated Lord Chatham's Ministry, the ostensible head of which was the present Duke of Grafton. The Earl of Chatham, however, who held the office of lord privy-seal, was known to be the actual director of its counsels. During this period the late venerable and respected Camden held the great seal, the first Earl of Northington was president of the privy-council, and the Marquis of Granby had the command of the army. The executive power was never wielded by men who possessed more ability and independence; but they had to encounter the extensive influence of the Rockingham party whom they had displaced. That party had acquired popularity from the repeal of the stamp act and the restoration of harmony and
1799-1800. P confidence

confidence to America; they had avowed themselves the determined enemies of favouritism and secret influence, at that time held in universal dread and detestation; and as it was notorious that Lord Bute, who had retired from power in 1763, still preserved his influence over the party who succeeded him under Mr. George Grenville, the nation was naturally disposed to suspect that the new administration was subject to the same controul. The event justified these fears; for, notwithstanding the professed independence of the ministry, and their aversion to the schemes and measures of what was denominated the Scotch faction, yet such was their want of coherence and union in parliament, that they found themselves equally unable to resist the intrigues of favouritism in the cabinet, and the influence of the Rockingham party in the House of Commons.

Could these two great parties, headed by the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Chatham, have been persuaded to form a vigorous and well-cemented combination against the increasing influence which they both dreaded, the dangerous faction could never have prevailed. But, though no expedient for this purpose was left untried by the friends of both, and by all the best patriots in the country, their efforts were unfortunately ineffectual. Had this union been accomplished, we should not, probably, at this day have to lament the separation of America. The right assumed by the British parliament to tax the colonies was never admitted either by the Marquis of Rockingham or the Earl of Chatham, but was most strenuously

strenuously denied and resisted by them, from the origin to the termination of the subsequent contest. The dispute with America would therefore never have originated with men, who held in superstitious reverence wise and liberal maxims of policy, which were grossly violated by the absurd and unjust attempt to tax the colonies.

As no means could be devised to unite these popular leaders, the new administration had but a short existence. The Earl of Chatham was the first who resigned, avowing as his reason, in the House of Lords, that "his measures were counteracted by a *secret influence* behind the throne, more powerful than majesty itself." Lord Shelburne soon followed, having been thwarted in his design to relieve the Corsicans, who were then making brave and laudable exertions under Paoli, their leader, for the restoration of their liberties. The Duke of Grafton and the Marquis of Granby were the only patriotic members of the cabinet who retained their places, a circumstance which exposed them to the severe animadversions and invectives of Junius.

From this period till the year 1782 we find the Earl of Shelburne in honourable opposition to all the measures of government, preserving a consistency and uniformity of principle highly creditable to his political character. From 1770 to 1782 was certainly the most brilliant period of his public life. Among the measures of great public importance which he reprobated, was the decision of the House of Commons upon the legal and constitutional return of

Mr. Wilkes to represent the county of Middlesex in parliament.* He opposed the power asserted by the two Houses, in the case of the printers, to punish by fine and imprisonment in cases where they themselves were accusers, judge, and jury, without a trial in the regular course of law by a jury of their peers. He exposed the folly and wickedness of the American war through every stage of its progress. He resisted the increasing influence of the crown, and the enormous additions to the public debt. He suggested an inquiry into the public expenditure, and proposed an abolition of useless places and of unnecessary expenses in various departments of the state, and brought forward various motions which tended to establish a more rigid system of public economy. During this period no question of importance was agitated in parliament in which the Earl of Shelburne did not take a leading part, and always on the patriotic or popular side.

The death of the Earl of Chatham placed him at the head of his political connection, which, indeed, prior to that event, had begun to be distinguished by the denomination of *the Shelburne party*, and already united, among other eminent personages, the Duke of Grafton, Earl Camden, Mr. Dunning, Col. Barré, and Mr. Alderman Townsend; inconsiderable in point of numbers, but pre-eminent in talents, elo-

* He also adopted a spirited line of conduct, in 1770, on the introduction of a bill for the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts; and, on its loss, he protested with the Dukes of Portland, Richmond, and other lords.

quence, and popularity. In 1780 this party was reinforced by the then untried powers of the present minister, who, to the hereditary influence of a great name, joined the promise he had always given of extraordinary talents.

On the overthrow of Lord North, in 1782, the long-desired union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties actually took place; and an administration was formed which united the patriotism, virtue, and ability of these two powerful interests. The Marquis of Rockingham was placed at the head of the Treasury, and Lord John Cavendish of the Exchequer; Mr. Fox, appointed secretary of state, was the efficient minister; Lord Keppel was placed at the head of the Admiralty; the Duke of Richmond at that of the Ordnance; and General Conway had the command of the army; the Earl of Shelburne accepted the management of the foreign department, for which he was certainly the best qualified of any person in Europe; Earl Camden was made president of the council; the Duke of Grafton, privy-seal; Mr. Dunning was created Lord Ashburton, and appointed chancellor of the Dutchy Court of Lancaster; and Lord Thurlow was permitted to retain the great-seal, which he had obtained during the former administration. The Rockingham party had a majority of voices, the first six members having acted in close unison during the time they had been in opposition. Mr. Burke, Colonel Barré, and the rest of the leading characters in the two Houses of Parliament, filled the secondary offices. If ever there was a party of political

tical men which derived its strength from the feelings and support of the country at large, it was this administration. Ambassadors or pacific intimations were immediately dispatched to the various European courts. The Duke of Portland and General Fitzpatrick were sent with powers to tranquillize Ireland. Useless places, the salaries of which amounted to upwards of seventy thousand pounds a year, were abolished. Persons holding offices under government were deprived, by act of parliament, of the right of voting or interfering in elections. Contractors were rendered ineligible to sit or vote in the House of Commons. Projects of parliamentary reform were framed with the best omens of success, and an inquiry instituted into the state of the representation of the people. All this was done in the short space of three months !

The most fatal calamity that could fall upon the country at such a moment blasted these fair and promising expectations. The death of the Marquis of Rockingham dissolved the union on which the people had placed their unbounded confidence, and the current of reformation was instantly stopped. Disappointed that the Duke of Portland was not placed at the head of the Treasury, Mr. Fox, Lord Keppel, and Lord John Cavendish, immediately resigned their situations, and were immediately followed by Mr. Burke and all the principal leaders of that party in both Houses of Parliament. The Earl of Shelburne was placed by the King, whose confidence he had particularly secured, at the head of the Treasury, in

the room of the Marquis of Rockingham; Mr. William Pitt succeeded Lord John Cavendish as chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Howe was placed at the head of the Admiralty in the room of Lord Keppel; and Lord Grantham and Lord Sydney were appointed secretaries of state.

The new administration were unjustly accused of an intention of continuing the American war, on the ground that they were willing to grant every thing the Americans demanded short of independence, without the full and unconditional acknowledgment of which, it was well known, peace could not be obtained. The acknowledgment of it on the part of Great Britain was, therefore, nothing more than admitting in words what was possessed in fact, and about which it would have been the very consummation of national folly to have wasted more blood and treasure. However, this imputation was soon done away by a peace with all the powers with whom we were at war, and by the acknowledgment of American independence, which preceded the signing of the preliminary articles.

It was farther objected against the administration, that it was not sincere in pursuing its plan of parliamentary reform and the proposed retrenchments of the public expenditure. But when it is recollected that the latter measure was first introduced into the House of Commons by Colonel Barré, the confidential friend of the new minister, who represented one of his Lordship's boroughs, and that it was supported in the Upper House by Lord Shelburne himself, cre-

dit must be given him for the honourable intentions on that important subject. With respect to the part he took in the reform of the representation, he had not, like the Duke of Richmond and Mr. Pitt, given a solemn pledge to the public, by placing himself at the head of any of the reforming societies; nor did he originally propose the measure to either House of Parliament. He has, however, always professed his conviction of the necessity of that reform, and his most intimate friends have been the foremost on all occasions to promote its success.

The period of Lord Shelburne's administration, which was only nine months, including the prorogation of parliament, allowed him no time to effect more than he actually did accomplish.

The unnatural and disgraceful coalition which took place at this time, between the Rockingham party and those who held the reins of government from the resignation of Lord Chatham's administration to the year 1782, under Lord North, forming a considerable majority of the members of both Houses of Parliament, the Earl of Shelburne and his newly-formed ministry were compelled to resign in December 1783.* Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish, and Lord Keppel, now resumed their former places; the

* The Earl of Shelburne submitted to the decision of the House of Commons, which had passed a vote of disapprobation on the treaty of peace, and resigned his place to his opponents. It is said, however, that a little relaxation in his principles and opinions would have enabled him to preserve his majority; but he chose to resign rather than to compromise his honour and his feelings.

Duke of Portland was placed at the head of the Treasury; General Conway at that of the army; Lord North was made secretary of state; Lord Stormont, president of the council; Lord Carlisle, privy-seal; and Lord Loughborough was put at the head of a commission for holding the great seal.

The Earl of Shelburne now became the head of a new opposition, which united his own immediate connections with a few of the Rockingham party not included in the coalition, and the whole of that description of politicians who are distinguished by the appellation of *the King's friends*.

To secure a majority in both Houses, the coalition neither courted popularity nor paid great deference to the feelings of the court. A bill was brought into parliament for vesting the management of the whole concerns of the East India Company, and the government of India, in seven commissioners and nine sub-commissioners, to be elected periodically by the House of Commons. This measure, it was easily perceived, would take the whole patronage of India out of the hands of the Crown, and deprive the Company itself of the management of its own concerns, while it tended to throw such a weight of influence into the scale of the existing ministry, as would enable their majority to appoint the East India commissioners, and the East India commissioners, in return, to elect the majority of the House of Commons! The Crown and the people felt, therefore, an equal interest in opposing this bill; and, while it was pending in the House

House of Lords, after having passed the House of Commons, his Majesty suddenly dismissed his ministers!

At this eventful period the whole country looked up to the Marquis of Lansdown, expecting that he would re-assume the reins of government; but when the new administration was announced, no inconsiderable degree of surprise was occasioned in the nation, to find that Mr. William Pitt, who had been chancellor of the Exchequer during the administration of his Lordship, and who was then only in the four-and-twentieth year of his age, was appointed first lord of the Treasury as well as chancellor of the Exchequer; and that the Earl of Shelburne, who took the lead in the opposition to the coalition administration, was entirely excluded from the new arrangements!

This circumstance has been attributed to his having declined the responsibility of an administration formed in opposition to the sense of that part of the House of Commons which still adhered to the dismissed party; a difficulty which could only be surmounted by a dissolution of parliament; others, however, attribute his being passed over to some juvenile intrigues of Mr. Pitt.

His Lordship is said to have called the new ministry a *rope of sand*; and having, moreover, a very slender opinion of their talents, he did not choose to risk his own great popularity by a connexion with them. The coalition which formed it was also, in many respects,

respects, as monstrous as that headed by Mr. Fox and Lord North, which had just been driven from power. His Lordship continued, however, for some years on good terms with the new ministry ; and, besides receiving for himself the titles of Marquis of Lansdown and Earl of Wycombe, he obtained a well-earned provision for Colonel Barré and some other of his friends.

The Marquis of Lansdown now retired to the enjoyments of private life at his country-mansion, in the style of a country-gentleman. The commencement of the present war, and the important events of the French revolution, first drew him from his retreat. Of this unfortunate contest, he has uniformly denied the justice and the necessity, in its origin as well as in every stage of its progress. He has, in consequence, acted for several years in decisive hostility to the ministry and their measures ; and, though he still keeps aloof from the party of Mr. Fox, yet their political opinions and sympathies appear to coincide.

As a statesman, the Marquis of Lansdown is universally acknowledged to possess first-rate qualities. As a senator, he is the most interesting and fascinating speaker in the Upper House, and is second to no one in the force of his arguments and in the poignancy of his satire ; and his speeches abound with proofs of deep information. Though in the sixty-fourth year of his age, he retains all the energy, the wit, and the acuteness of penetration,* which

* In person, he has often been admired for the dignity of his deportment

have so eminently distinguished him through the whole of his brilliant and honourable career. In domestic life, his Lordship's favourite pursuits have always been architecture and the magnificent embellishment of his houses. His palace in Berkeley-Square is esteemed one of the most elegant and sumptuous in Great Britain. All the ceilings are painted by Cipriani, and the collection of paintings and other decorations are by the greatest masters; and such is the fondness of the owner for this kind of excellence, that artists of various descriptions are always employed about the premises in making additions and improvements.

His library is a *chef-d'œuvre*. It is one hundred and ten feet in length, and ornamented with the most valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman statues. The ceiling is painted by Cipriani from the antiquities found in Herculaneum. The collection of books is worthy of this magnificent apartment, and honourable to the taste of the owner. It consists of about ten thousand volumes of the most valuable books, in all languages, which are arranged in a classical and scientific manner. It is most complete, and perhaps *unique* in the extent of its political

deportment and the intelligence of his countenance. Many persons have conceived that a strong general likeness existed between him and the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth; there is, doubtless, more expression and force in the features of the Marquis. He has for many years been a martyr to repeated attacks of the gout; but these have not diminished his flow of spirits and his attachment to books and the arts.

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collection, and as containing every work which has been published in France and England on the subject of the French revolution.

His Lordship's first wife was the daughter of the late Earl Granville, by whom he has only one son living, viz. the present Earl of Wycombe, a patriotic member of parliament for the borough of High Wycombe. His second lady was Lady Louisa Fitzpatrick, sister to the present Earl of Ossory and the Dowager Lady Holland, mother to the present Lord Holland, by whom he has another son, Lord John Henry Petty, now in the 22d year of his age.

This distinguished nobleman possesses the immense fortune accumulated by his great-grandfather, and he has always expended it with princely liberality.* He is a most generous patron of the arts and literature, and many instances might be enumerated of his bounties to deserving and distressed men of letters. Few characters in the political walks of life have maintained that consistency of conduct and principle which has marked the life of this illustrious personage; but, as it is the fate of all great men to have powerful rivals and enemies, he has not been exempted from his share of their impotent reproach. His patriotic conduct during the American war; his necessary peace of 1783; his subsequent submission to a decision of the House of Commons; his manly opposition to a war which threatened the very

* His rent-roll is said formerly to have been £35,000 per annum.

existence of the country; his able speeches in parliament, during a period of forty-one years; and his munificence in his own elegant pursuits; will become his faithful eulogium when the senseless turbulence and calumny of parties are forgotten.

A.D.

SIR JOHN PARNELL,

EX-CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman is the grandson of John Parnell, Esq. one of the Judges of the court of King's Bench in Ireland, whose brother was Dean Parnell, the celebrated author of the *Hermit*.

The honour of a baronetage was conferred upon this gentleman's father by his present Majesty, November 3d, 1766: the title descended to Sir John about the year 1783. Soon after this gentleman attained the age of manhood, he was returned to serve in the Irish parliament for Queen's county.

In the administration of Lord Carlisle, Sir John Parnell was appointed one of the commissioners of customs and excise; and as such offices did not exclude gentlemen from the parliament of the sister-kingdom, Sir John continued to give his assistance to the administration in the Irish senate.

His high character in parliament attracted the especial notice of government, and in 1786 Sir John succeeded Mr. Forster in the important office of chancellor of the Exchequer, under the administration

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tion of the late Duke of Rutland; and continued in the industrious discharge of the duties of this station for a period of thirteen years, under the successive administrations of the Duke of Rutland, Marquis of Buckingham, Earl Westmoreland, and Earl Fitzwilliam.

This gentleman is an instance that perseverance and industry, without extraordinary brilliancy of talents, will enable persons to rise to the highest offices of the state.

When the important question of an incorporating legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland was introduced into the Irish parliament, Sir John Parnell was disinterestedly against the adoption, or even introduction, of the measure; and preferring the sacrifice of his place to that of his principles, he resigned it at a period when the emoluments amounted to at least £3500 per annum.

He is more than fifty years of age, is married, and has several children; his principal country residence is at Bathleague, near Maryborough, in Queen's county. Upon the death of a near relation, in the year 1796, he succeeded to one of the most beautiful and highly-cultivated estates in Ireland, called Avon-Dale, in the county of Wicklow, for many years possessed by that amiable and much-valued character, the late Samuel Hayes, Esq. who, dying without issue, bequeathed this small estate, for many years the constant care, delight, and pride of his life, to his worthy relation, the present Sir John Parnell.

W. Y.

MR. ROBERT SOUTHEY.

THE subject of the present memoir, though a young person, and of a retired disposition, is justly entitled to a place among the public characters of this country, being well known as a man of letters, but more particularly as a poet. His poem, *Joan of Arc*, was written by him at an earlier period than *Lucan* wrote his *Pharsalia*. Like the Roman poet, too, the author is a strenuous assertor of liberty.

Mr. Robert Southey was born at Bristol, August the 12th, 1774. His father was a linen-draper in that town, a man who had been so accustomed to regulate his motions by the neighbouring clock, that the clock might at length (so punctual were his movements) have been regulated by him. He was also extremely fond of the country and its employments.

Notwithstanding the extreme punctuality of Mr. Southey the elder, he was like many other worthy men unfortunate; his misfortunes preyed upon his spirits, and he died of a broken heart in consequence of embarrassments.

At six years of age, young Southey went to the school kept by Mr. Foot at Bristol, which is now ably managed by Mr. Estlin, and is one of the most respectable dissenting academies in this country. At the death of Mr. Foot he was removed to Carston, near Bath. He left Carston when he was eight years of age. The re-visiting of this place gave birth

to

to some of those feelings expressed in that pleasing poem, entitled the *Retrospect*, published in a volume printed in 1795, the joint production of our author and his friend Robert Lovel.

He continued at a day-school in Bristol till he was thirteen years of age, and wrote rhymes when he was but ten. He was also taught by his aunt to relish Shakspeare and Beaumont and Fletcher. For one year he was under a clergyman who taught a select number of pupils for a few hours in the morning. At fourteen he was removed to Westminster-School.

At this school he continued, in the practice of the public schools, to write bad Latin verses; his English verses were more decent, and indicated that the author might, in future life, reach excellence.

Mr. Southey was entered at Baliol College, Oxford, in November 1792. His turn of mind was serious, his affections were ardent, and he became a convert to the theories of the republican. In the summer of this year he became acquainted with Mr. Coleridge, at that time a student of Jesus' College, Cambridge, and who was then on a visit to a friend at Oxford. Coleridge, no less than Southey, possessed a strong passion for poetry. They commenced, like two young poets, an enthusiastic friendship, and, in connection with a few others, struck out a plan for settling in America, and for having all things in common. This scheme they called Pantisocracy, of which, however visionary it may be thought by some, Southey long approved the theory.

Southey first became acquainted with Lovel in

1799-1800.

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1793.

1793. The three young poetical friends, Lovel, Southey, and Coleridge, married three sisters. Southey is attached to domestic life, and, fortunately, was very happy in his matrimonial connection. He married in November 1795, just before he left England to accompany his uncle to Spain and Portugal. He continued abroad six months.

Of his religious sentiments we shall say but little. Poets are often the children of fancy rather than of reason; and, whether they are Deists, Socinians, or Calvinists, correct inquirers will not regulate their judgments by the writings of poets. It seems, however, Southey was once a Deist; then he became a Socinian; though several sentiments contained in the Joan of Arc are scarcely reconcileable with the belief of a Socinian. Whatever his religious persuasions, however, may be, he is tolerant in principle, and destitute of bigotry; he shuns close argument, and professes to know little of metaphysics. Whatever his opinions may be for the time, he never conceals them, and is cautious that other people should not mistake them.

All his intellectual endowments he professes to owe to his mother's uncle, chaplain to the factory at Lisbon, a man of a most excellent character, of whom Mr. Southey always speaks with that sense of gratitude which argues a good heart. It was with this gentleman that Mr. Southey travelled into Spain and Portugal.

Upon his return to England Mr. Southey entered himself a member of Gray's inn.

It is in the closet where we should contemplate such a character as Robert Southey. We must not look for great variety of incidents in the history of a young man, now only twenty-five years of age, immersed in reading, and passionately attached to poetry. We will then close with a short account of his writings.

In the year 1795, he published his first volume of poems, in connection with his friend Robert Lovel, the former assuming the name of Moschus, the latter of Bion. Without noticing any particular blemishes that maturer judgment would have corrected, some of which, in subsequent volumes, have been corrected, it may be proper, in general, to say, that the sonnets to Ariste are pretty; and the Retrospect and Ode to Romance have considerable merit. On reading the poems of Robert Lovel, the admirers of poetry will lament his early death. His sonnets to Happiness and Fame are particularly excellent.

In the year 1796 Mr. Southey published his Joan of Arc, an epic poem, in ten books. It would be improper to inquire into its particular beauties and defects here. If examined by the rules laid down by Aristotle for the epic, it will be found defective. But, it might be asked, are Aristotle's the invariable rules for the epic? Are they to be the eternal law? And has no other poet ventured to go against them? These are questions not to be urged here. Without pretending to fix the character of Joan of Arc by the ordinary rules of the epic, without inquiring into the truth of the theology, or the justice of the representations,

tions, we consider the Joan of Arc to possess great beauties that cannot fail to please all the lovers of poetry; and, provided they do not forget they are reading the writings of a mere poet (for the poet always claimed the power of raising spirits, conjuring up visions, or making gods and goddesses, and even devils, at his pleasure), they may justly be delighted with the simplicity and richness of the descriptions, the harmony of the numbers, the amiable spirit of benevolence, and the love of liberty, so prominent in Joan of Arc.

This poem (surprising as it may be thought) was written, Mr. Southey tells us in his preface, in six weeks. Whatever, therefore, its faults may be (though haste, simply considered, is never allowed by strict criticism to be an apology for negligence), when it is recollected, that it was the almost extemporaneous production of a young man, writing for bread, great allowances will be made; though, indeed, before it was brought into its present shape, it underwent more than ordinary correction, and was twice written over again. The verse is heroic or iambic verse, of ten syllables, without rhyme, called by us blank verse, and is, generally speaking, excellent of its kind. The second edition makes two elegant volumes.

The next volume of poems published by Southey, contains the productions of very distant periods. They possess different degrees of merit; for, where a person writes with that uncommon rapidity with which Mr. Southey composes, he will not always

write

write like himself. The *Triumph of Woman* is a fine poem. The sonnets on the *Slave-Trade* breathe much benevolence, and do the author great honour. The lyric poems, though possessed of a good deal of the fire of poetry, are yet defective in many of those qualities required of that most polished and useful, though difficult, species of poetry, by which Mr. Southey has thought proper to denominate them, lyric. Some of them should rather have been called *copies* of verses, a name commonly given to little pieces written on the spur of the moment, and reducible to no distinct class.—*MARY* is a very affecting narrative, and justly admired.

In the year 1799 he published another volume of poems with this motto:

The better please, the worse displease, I ask no more.

SPENSER.

These are, for the most part, of the story or ballad kind, and imitative of the style of the old English ballads. Of this number are, the *Complaints of the Poor*, the *Cross-Roads*, the *Sailor who had served in the Slave-Trade*, &c. This volume also contains the *Visions of the Maid of Orleans*, in three books, which composed the ninth book of the first edition of *Joan of Arc*, and formed what Mr. Southey called the original sin of the poem. Considered as mere poetry, these three books possess many beauties.

Another volume of poems has since made its appearance, entitled, *THE ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY*, of which Mr. Southey wrote a great part. It is a miscellaneous composition, though entirely poetical, and

written by different authors. The other contributors are, Mr. Taylor of Norwich, Mr. Charles Lloyd, Mrs. Opie, Mr. George Dyer, Mr. Joseph Cottle, Mr. Charles Lamb, the late Mr. Robert Lovel, Mr. A. S. Cottle, Mr. Humphrey Davy, and Dr. Beddoes.

In the year 1801 Mr. Southey gave to the public his poem entitled *Thalaba, or the Destroyer*. The merits of this work are of no common class; and the peculiarities, which some critics may call blemishes, are by others styled beauties. Like all the productions of its author, it bears some marks of negligence and haste, but its grand features bear, unquestionably, the stamp of genius.

The only prose work written by Mr. Southey comprehends his travels, entitled, *Letters written during a short Residence in Spain and Portugal*.

The most curious part of this work relates to the Spanish and Portuguese poetry. In all countries, as Mr. Southey properly observes, "the era of genius" has preceded that of taste; and taste has not yet "been reached by the Spanish and Portuguese poets." Genius they have undoubtedly possessed, as may be seen in the *La Herminosa de Angelica*, an heroic poem, by Lope Felix de Vega Carpio, of which Mr. Southey has given a fair and large specimen; and the *Lusiad*, of which we have an English translation, by Mr. Mickle. The *Diana* of George of Mountemayer, from the beautiful specimen given by Mr. Southey, proves the author to have been a man of an elegant fancy. But the characters of the Spaniards and

and Portuguese are strongly marked by extravagance and superstition, and so is their poetry. Yet, all things considered, more particularly the terrors of their government, and the gloominess of their religion, we are rather surprised that the Spaniards and Portuguese should have done so much, even in poetry, than that they have not done more. And their poetical compositions, amidst much futility and extravagance, contain many things that the curious will like to peruse, and which the ingenious cannot fail to admire.

Mr. Southey, with a very commendable zeal, some time ago announced his intention of publishing by subscription, a complete edition of the Works of the unfortunate Chatterton, with his Life; the profits of which are to be appropriated to the relief of his sister. In his proposals he alluded, with some degree of severity, to the conduct of the Reverend Sir Herbert Croft; who, with at least equal intemperance, replied to Mr. Southey through the medium of the Gentleman's Magazine for February 1800. A rejoinder from Mr. Southey was published in the Monthly Magazine for April of the same year.

Mr. Southey's benevolent intentions were not very warmly seconded by the public in the first instance, but we learn with pleasure that they are still likely to be effectual. The undertaking reflects the highest honour upon the heart of its projector; and we have no doubt that the execution of the task, in which he has so zealously volunteered his services, will be no less creditable to his talents.

E. R.

DR. PATRICK DUIGENAN.

THIS gentleman is a most interesting subject to the speculative and philosophic reader. His mind is not so much of a novel as of an obsolete cast; for, from some strange combination of circumstances, some odd admixture of ingredients in his tempera-
ture, he seems capable of feeling no sentiment, of uttering no thought, but those which would have befitted a monkish polemic of three centuries back. His very language and look partake of this complexion of mind; and one might know, either from his diction or his face, that he was designed for some of those ages which are gone by, where the religious zealot evinced the purity of his faith by the foulness of his language, and displayed the Christian charity of his heart by intolerance and persecution.

Of the family from which Dr. Patrick Duigenan descended nothing is generally known; but, from the very sound of the name, it is obvious it must have been perfectly Irish; nor would it be rash to infer, that it must have been Catholic as well as Irish. For, though there are considerable numbers of that name in the country, yet not in one instance of one hundred is it found to designate a protestant or a sectary. It is among the felicities of the Doctor, therefore, that his talents and his virtues are not obscured by the splendour of ancestry, and that his strong attachment to the established church and Protestant ascendancy cannot be attributed to early prejudice.

Dr.

Dr. Duigenan was educated at the University of Dublin, in which he is said originally to have entered a sizar. His industry was successively rewarded with a scholarship and fellowship; but whether it was that he did not at that time feel the same affection for the church which he has since manifested, or that he had a stronger predilection for a life of contest than of peace, he obtained leave to study law rather than take orders. He continued one of the two lay-fellows who alone are permitted in Dublin College by its statutes, until Mr. Hely Hutchinson was appointed provost. On the accession of that gentleman to the government of the university, Dr. Duigenan conceived for him the most invincible antipathy; it appeared in every act, and pervaded the whole tenor of his conduct. Whatever might have been the demerits of Mr. Hutchinson, he had at least the praise of being a gentleman highly polished, of an elegant mind, and considerable acquirements in polite literature. These qualities, however, were not fitted to mitigate the fierce dislike which the Doctor had conceived of his new head, and he accordingly preferred quitting the college on the first opportunity, to paying an unwilling obedience to the man he hated. The Doctor, however, did not recede in silence from his antagonist; he published a tract entitled *Lachrymæ Academicæ*, in which he attacked the provost with the most violent invective; and he sought, and it is said obtained, an opportunity of giving him the grossest personal insult. The provost passed over both

both with great composure, and the anger of his enemy expired from want of fire to feed it. After Dr. Duigenan's retirement from college, he retained his place of lecturer in civil law, and some time afterward was appointed an ecclesiastical judge. His adherence to the old high-church principles finally procured him a seat in parliament, when the increasing liberality of public feeling made it likely that those principles might need an advocate to support them. Sent to the senate by clerical influence, Dr. Duigenan has never forgotten what he owes to his patrons, nor has he at any time omitted an occasion of inculcating, on the House and on the public, the virtues, the poverty, and the loyalty of the clergy, or of holding out popery and sectaries as the enemies of God and of religion, of moral duty and of good government. It is not only against papists and sectaries, as such, that the caustic eloquence of Dr. Duigenan is directed; the Irish as distinguished from the British settler, and their descendants in Ireland, are equally, at times, the smarting victims of his tongue; even a name sounding like that of an Irishman, or an Irish Catholic, furnishes a theme for the parliamentary invective of the learned Doctor. The unfortunate name of *Keogh*, which belonged to a man some time active in the cause of emancipation and reform, has more than once been pronounced by Dr. Patrick Duigenan in a manner and a tone, which, while it entertained a senate, spoke his contempt and scorn for Irish gutturals.

It

It would be doing great injustice to this learned gentleman to insinuate, that he is an indolent senator, except when the concerns of the church call for his exertions; the fact is, he is one of the most zealous supporters of the Irish administration, and the most devoted enemy of sedition in every form; but it must be acknowledged, that his powers are most happily raised when the interests of the clergy combine with the safety of the state, and when he labours at once for God and for his country. Hence it is, that he calls forth his finest figures, and flames with most heat, when he opposes such a man as Mr. Grattan, who so mistakingly would engraft religious freedom on civil liberty. Indeed, against such men as Mr. Grattan, the Doctor delights to pit himself. Even when that gentleman had retired from parliament, his address to his constituents, and some other trifles which appeared in public under his name, excited the attention and roused the fire of the Doctor. He attacked them in a pamphlet so much in the Doctor's strong way, so vehement, we do not say so scurrilous and so abusive, that Mr. Grattan thought himself called upon to give the gentleman, who had taken so much offence at him, some other way of obtaining satisfaction than mere writing would afford him; he accordingly left London, went to Dublin, and, after publishing an advertisement in most of the London and Dublin papers, in which he applied the strongest epithets of contempt to the Doctor's publication, gave notice, that for a certain number of days, in the advertisement

ment mentioned, he should be found at Keams's Hotel, in Kildare-Street. The Doctor, however, on this occasion, shewed himself a well-disposed subject, who could not easily be persuaded to break the peace: he exerted no sagacity in finding out Mr. Grattan's meaning, and Mr. G. knowing perhaps the danger of giving an ecclesiastical judge a more explicit declaration of it, returned after some time to England.

It is remarkable that Dr. Duigenan is at present a widower:—his wife was a very rigid Catholic, and, notwithstanding the vehemence of his declaration against popery, and his strong opposition to every popish claim, he kept constantly, during his wife's life, a Catholic priest in his house, as her confessor and chaplain. He is still a healthy strong man, though in declining years:—whether he will a second time connect himself with the abominations of Babylon, is a matter of curious speculation.

W. E.

MR. GEORGE PONSONBY.

THAT respect which great talents are always sure to meet from the public, when exerted in their service, Mr. Ponsonby has uniformly received; and, however he may at different times have ascended or fallen in the scale of popularity, his vigorous understanding and uncommon powers have invariably procured for him a distinguished place in the public estimation.

Mr.

Mr. Ponsonby is descended from a family who have been long conspicuous in the political history of Ireland:—he is the second son of the late Right Honourable John Ponsonby, who for several years filled the important office of Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and who was truly supposed to possess a greater degree of influence than any commoner, perhaps any man, in the management of the sister country. After receiving a very excellent school education, Mr. Ponsonby was sent to the university of Cambridge, where, without the affectation of remarkable industry or seclusion, he laid in a stock of classical and general learning, which has since contributed to render him one of the brightest, if not the most shining ornaments of the Irish senate. In the year 1780 he was called to the Irish bar; and, like most other gentlemen who come to the bar with an independent fortune, did not for some time distinguish himself by either great legal learning or singular industry in professional pursuits. His connection, however, with the men in power under the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, procured for Mr. Ponsonby the favour and patronage of the Duke of Portland, on his appointment to the viceroyalty of Ireland in 1782. Under the auspices of that nobleman he was presented with a silk gown, though only a barrister of two years standing, and at the same time was appointed first counsel to the commissioners of the revenue, a place of which the salary and emoluments together are estimated at about 1200*l.* per annum. The system of government in Ireland was

was conceived to require, that he who held a place equally valuable with that which had been conferred on Mr. Ponsonby, should also have a seat in parliament, and support with his vote at least, if not with his talents, the measures of administration:—Mr. Ponsonby was accordingly brought into the House of Commons, and, agreeable to the tenure of his office, uniformly voted with the minister, though it must be acknowledged he did not exert himself in the support of administration any other way. Indeed, both as a senator and a lawyer, Mr. Ponsonby, during this period of his life, may be fairly charged with indolence; he was neither assiduous in his professional business, nor anxious to evince his attachment to his patrons, by any shew of talents or of zeal in his parliamentary character. Always fond of the sports and exercises of the field, the greater part of his time was devoted to the chase, and those convivial pleasures with which it is generally followed.

During the interval between the administration of the Duke of Portland, which began and ended in 1782, and the administration of the Marquis of Buckingham, which commenced in 1788, Mr. Ponsonby continued to enjoy his place and his pleasures in easy indolence. The Marquis, however, who made many patriots courtiers, made also some courtiers patriots: of these latter, Mr. Ponsonby was one. The Marquis dismissed him from office, and appointed in his place Mr. Marcus Beresford, a stripling of the all-powerful house of that name in Ireland. So considerable a diminution as this circumstance occasioned

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in Mr. P.'s income, to which a family had rather made an increase necessary, rendered it incumbent on him to exert himself with more vigour than he had hitherto done. He had now, therefore, seriously began to cultivate his profession, nor was it long before he assumed that rank as a lawyer which his masculine and correct understanding entitled him to hold. In a little time business poured in upon him, with a rapidity which proved how high his character for talents stood with the public: and in parliament, too, he now began to display those rare qualifications for debate which have obtained for him the well-founded reputation of being the first parliamentary orator in the Irish House of Commons. The Marquis of Buckingham, too late, was enabled to calculate the amount of his loss in exchanging the talents of Mr. Ponsonby for the puerility and pertness of Master Beresford, yet an unfledged boy; nor did he find that loss compensated even by the smooth and superficial eloquence of Mr. Corry, whose support of his measures had followed his recent promotion to a place in the Ordnance. Against the measures of this administration Mr. Ponsonby, in concert with a very respectable and numerous opposition, called forth all his powers; nor was there one of the many topics of declamation or complaint against the Viceroy which he did not repeatedly urge and aggravate, with all the force which argument or eloquence could lend, to hasten his retreat from the government. Of these topics, the principal was, the expence and rapidly-increasing corruption of administration, evinced by the ~~the~~ state

state of government-patronage in the House of Commons, where, out of three hundred members, there were one hundred and ten who enjoyed places and pensions under the crown. This cause of complaint the Marquis himself had greatly aggravated, by adding fourteen new placemen to the existing number, for whom situations were created by increasing the number of members at some of the public boards, and by dividing among two or more the duties and salaries of offices which had till then been filled by one individual.

In 1789 the melancholy occasion of the King's illness created a new source of discord between the Minister and Opposition, in the question on the appointment of a regent. Of this opportunity of evincing his attachment to the popular cause, Mr. Ponsonby took care to avail himself, by maintaining with great strength of argument, and, as appeared by the event, with great success, the exclusive right of Ireland to nominate its own regent on the suspension of the royal functions. Mr. Grattan was in this contest the powerful coadjutor of Mr. Ponsonby. The Irish Commons yielded to the joint exertions of the powers of those two distinguished senators, or rather, perhaps, to the delusive prospects which they conceived now opened to them, of pre-occupying the favour of a new sovereign, by protecting his rights against the mutilating hand of the minister. The Prince of Wales was invited to assume the regency, unclogged by any restrictions whatsoever; and the Viceroy, who, under the influence of his relation Mr.

Pitt,

Pitt, had adopted the other side of this question, mortified by his disappointment, and the still more mortifying circumstances which attended it, withdrew from the government.

The triumph of the Opposition, however, was very short-lived: the happy restoration of the King's health soon taught the majority of that body the folly of their speculation, and induced many of them to atone, by very humiliating concessions, for having differed from the minister. Mr. Ponsonby was not of this number; his opinion on the question of regency remained unchanged, his opposition to the system pursued in the administration of Ireland was prosecuted with unabated vigour, and his exertions to expose and to defeat it continued to display as much zeal and vehemence as when the hopes of success in that attempt had been most flattering.

In consequence either of these continued efforts of Opposition to expose the corruption and incapacity of the government, or of that incapacity and corruption resorting to measures which goaded the Irish people to sedition and revolt, it is certain that discontent and disaffection began to grow in Ireland from the period we speak of, until it finally burst forth in the rebellion of 1798. Mr. Ponsonby's pertinacity, and that of those with whom he acted in parliament, in continuing to reprobate the system on which the Irish government was conducted, and the unyielding, coercive, and obstinate spirit with which the minister punished, instead of attempting to reclaim the misled, had, from the current of public
 1799-1800. R opinion

opinion running the other way, induced a temporary obscurity on his political character. Mr. Ponsonby, however, still preserved a consistent steadiness of opinion and conduct on this head, apparently disregarding what imputations the madness or the prejudice of irritated party-spirit may attempt to throw upon his principles or his motives.

Of Mr. Ponsonby's oratorical exertions, the great features are simplicity and strength. His language is constantly the most plain and the most precise, unadorned by any of those rhetorical flourishes, which much more frequently weaken the effect of a popular address than render it more impressive. He seldom deigns even to use a metaphor; but when he does, he selects always those which are strong and obvious. His sentences are generally short, and he is not very fastidious in avoiding a repetition of the same idea when he wishes to impress it strongly on the mind of his auditory, or when there is any thing in its nature which may make it liable to be misunderstood. The matter of his speeches is generally of the best kind, selected by a strong understanding, under the guidance of plain sense, from an extensive knowledge of politics and of mankind. It is chiefly, however, in a debate that Mr. Ponsonby is celebrated; and he certainly possesses, in a very eminent degree, either the *knack* or the *science* of exposing and refuting the arguments of an adversary. In this, his great memory is of the last importance to him. He never takes notes, and yet will frequently recapitulate and answer, nearly in the same order in which they were delivered,

delivered, all the arguments which have been urged by his antagonists in a debate of twelve or fourteen hours. It must be observed of Mr. P. that he strictly observes the rule given by Cicero to his orator, and passes over, in perfect silence, the arguments which he cannot *well* answer. He notices only the feeble or the false parts of his opponent's reasoning; and, as he always makes it a point to close the debate, he thus is sure to attract from his audience, on all occasions, the plaudits of victory. Mr. P. is now somewhat above forty-three years old, his person inclining to plethoric, and the cast of his countenance strong and coarse.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

THIS true patriot and determined opponent of African slavery is a grandson of the celebrated Doctor Sharp, archbishop of York, who, in the arbitrary reign of James the Second, so honourably distinguished himself as the champion of the Protestant religion and of the liberties of his country. Doctor Sharp, immediately after the accession of King William, was made dean of Canterbury, from whence he was raised to the see of York; and he continued to be the zealous advocate of liberty during the whole period of his valuable life.

His son, the father of Mr. Granville Sharp, was master of the Temple, and emulated the pious zeal of his father, which he has transmitted, with all its lustre,

to that benevolent character who is the subject of this memoir.

If any man of the present day deserves the name of philanthropist, it is Mr. Granville Sharp; since his whole life has been one continued struggle to improve the condition of mankind, sometimes by his literary labours, and at other times by the more active services of benevolence. To commiserate the unfortunate, in him seems to be a radical instinct, which by its force overpowers those cold and prudential maxims which too often regulate the conduct of men in general. Those prejudices which would exclude the oppressed of any country, condition, or complexion, from the rights of humanity, to him are entirely unknown. The African torn from his country, and the sailor from his home, have ever found in him an eloquent and successful advocate. In his treatise on the injustice and dangerous tendency of tolerating slavery, his arguments, though sometimes diffuse, are strong and convincing. In this work he clearly proves, that the law of nature, deduced from philosophical reasonings, supposes an equality among all mankind, independent of the laws of society; nor can any social compact suppose one man to surrender his liberty, with his person, up to any other—a barter for which he can receive nothing in exchange of equal value. One circumstance which contributed greatly to call the attention of Mr. Granville Sharp to the consideration of slavery, and its evil effects on society, as it is curious, and develops in a high degree the excellent qualities of his heart, shall be here fully

fully related. It has this peculiarity, also, that on its merits the law of England was ascertained, concerning the right to freedom of every person treading on English soil; about which many eminent lawyers had entertained different opinions. The case is this:—A poor negro lad, of the name of Somerset, labouring under a disorder that had been deemed incurable, and which had deprived him of his sight, was abandoned by his owner as an useless article of property, and turned into the streets of London to support his miserable existence by precarious charity. The poor creature, in this destitute and forlorn condition, was expiring on the pavement of one of the most public streets in London. Mr. Sharp chanced to pass that way. This gentleman beheld him with that sympathy which is characteristic of his benevolent disposition. He caused him to be immediately removed to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, attended personally to his wants, and had the happiness, in a short time, to see him restored, by proper medical assistance and food, to the full enjoyment of his health and sight. The hand of beneficence extended still farther its fostering care; Mr. Sharp clothed him, and procured him a comfortable employment in the service of a lady of his acquaintance. Two years elapsed: the circumstance and even the name of the poor negro had escaped the memory of his benefactor, when Mr. Sharp received a letter from a person of the name of *Somerset*, confined in the Poultry-Compter, stating no cause for his commitment, but humbly entreating the protection of that goodness which had formerly pre-

served his life, to save him from a greater calamity. The humanity of Mr. Granville Sharp led him instantly to the prison, where he found the same poor negro who had been the object of his former compassion. His master, by whom he had been discarded in sickness and misery, and who had abandoned him to the world as an unserviceable and dying creature, seeing him accidentally behind the carriage of the lady to whom Mr. Sharp had recommended him as a servant, and perceiving that he had recovered his health and strength, seized him in the street, pulled him down from the chariot, and caused him to be sent to prison as a runaway slave. Mr. Sharp waited immediately upon the Lord Mayor, who caused the master and the poor negro to be summoned before him. That upright and well-informed magistrate decided that the master had no property in the person of the negro in this country; and that, consequently, as there was no other charge against him, he was perfectly free, and at liberty to depart wherever he pleased. The master instantly, however, seized the unfortunate black by the collar, in the presence of Mr. Sharp and the Lord Mayor, and insisted on his right to keep him as his property. Mr. Sharp claimed the protection of the English law against the master, and, causing him to be taken into immediate custody, exhibited articles of the peace against him for an assault and battery. The Lord Mayor took cognizance of the charge, and the master was committed, and compelled to find bail for his appearance at the sessions, to take his trial for the offence. Thus the

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great question of slavery, which involved the honour of England, as well as the fate of thousands, was brought fairly before an English court of justice. A *certiorari* was obtained to remove the cause into the court of King's Bench, whence it was submitted to the twelve Judges, who unanimously concurred in opinion that the master had acted criminally, and thereby emancipated for ever the race of blacks from a state of slavery while they remained on British ground!

Having succeeded so well in the first instance, his mind was naturally led on to farther endeavours to benefit the condition of oppressed Africans. He observed many of these people begging about the streets of London, and conceived the idea of sending them back to their native country, for the double purpose of ameliorating their own condition, and, at the same time, introducing the seeds of civilization into Africa. These people he collected together to a very considerable number, and, at his sole expence, sent them over to Africa, where they formed a colony, and built themselves a town, which, in compliment to their benefactor, they named *Granville*. It is situated on the river Sierra Leone, not far from the newly established settlement of *Free Town*.

In the discussion of the important question concerning the legality of press-warrants, Mr. Sharp displayed the same energy as he had done in the case of Somerset. A freeman of London, of the name of Mellichip, had been impressed into the service of the navy. Mr. Sharp applied to Mr. Alderman Bull,

then Lord Mayor, for an order for his discharge, which that magistrate, ever watchful over the liberties of the people, and incorruptibly pure in the administration of public justice, instantly granted. The commanding-officer of the press-gang had previously removed Mellichip to the Nore, in order to place him beyond the limits of the city jurisdiction. Mr. Sharp then caused the Court of King's Bench to be immediately moved for a writ of Habeas Corpus to bring the body of Mellichip into court, which being of course complied with, Mr. Sharp insisted, that, there being no charge against him for a breach of the laws, but being detained under the pretended authority of an impress warrant, the court, as guardians of the liberty of the subject, was bound to discharge him. Lord Mansfield felt himself compelled to acquiesce in the constitutional justice of this demand, and ordered Mellichip to be set at liberty.

It was to the active humanity and patriotism of Mr. Sharp, that the Society for abolishing the Slave-Trade owes its origin. This society has since extended itself in several countries in Europe, and through all the states in America; and, though its exertions have not yet been attended with complete and wished-for success, it has brought about several very important regulations of this horrible traffic, and has considerably ameliorated the condition of the unhappy victims. Of this excellent society Mr. Sharp has been the president ever since its first institution.

In his political principles, he is the ardent and zealous friend of liberty, and neglects no opportunity of
defending

defending its principles or asserting the neglected rights of the people. He has ever been the warm advocate for a parliamentary reform, and has recommended a plan to the public founded on the earliest principles and practice of the British constitution. He desires to restore the ancient tithings by which the whole country was formerly incorporated into societies of ten men each, who were joint security for the legal and peaceable demeanor of each other, and who elected, annually, from amongst themselves, a conservator of the peace, called the tithing-man. Ten of these societies he would unite into a larger body, denominated, agreeably to ancient practice, the Hundred, who should elect annually their constable; and ten of these bodies again to form the largest assembly of the Thousand, who should annually elect, upon the original principles of the British constitution, their elderman or magistrate. All trivial causes and disputes he proposes to have settled once a month by a jury of twelve men, in the Hundred court, before the constable; and all causes of a superior nature, and appeals from the Hundred, he would have decided in the court of the Thousand, before the elderman and a jury of their peers. The whole body of the people to form, in this manner, the national militia; each Thousand to constitute a regiment, the elderman or magistrate to be their colonel; and each Hundred to constitute a company, the constable of each, for the time being, to be their captain. So many of the Thousands to be summonsd once in every year, by their magistrate, as would have a right to choose

choose a five hundred and fifty-eighth part of the representative legislature, and vote in their respective hundreds before the constable, without expence to the candidate or loss of time to the voter.

Mr. Sharp has shewn that the division of this kingdom into *tithings* and *hundreds* was instituted at first by the virtuous and patriotic King Alfred. He has likewise demonstrated, in his treatise on this subject, that such an institution is thoroughly consistent with the most perfect state of liberty that man is capable of enjoying, and yet competent, nevertheless, to answer all the necessary purposes of mutual defence, the due execution of just and equal laws, and the sure maintenance of the public peace. Neither does this system of government want either the prescription of antiquity or the test of experience to recommend it to our notice. It reduced to order the Israelitish armies in the wilderness, and diffused comparative happiness through this kingdom, from the days of its royal institutor to the Norman conquest.

The episcopal church in America was founded upon a system recommended by Mr. Sharp, and he had the honour of introducing their first bishops for consecration to the present Archbishop of Canterbury. America has, however, no established religion. The constitution of that country can neither establish nor prohibit any mode of worship which any individual may think proper to adopt.

In the unfortunate war which ended in the separation of America from Great Britain, the virtue and patriotism of this gentleman suggested to the Congress

gress the idea of having recourse to him, as a means of bringing about a reconciliation between the two countries. Two commissioners were accordingly dispatched to Paris, for the purpose of transmitting to Mr. Sharp, in London, proposals for the British government. Mr. Sharp delivered the propositions to Lord George Germain, who was then the American minister; and, the terms not being acceded to by the English ministry, the commissioners returned, and America was declared independent on the 4th of July, in consequence of this refusal.

The wide scale on which Mr. Sharp has acted, and the various interests his schemes have embraced, certainly mark him out as no common character; and, though his writings have been ineffectual to produce a recurrence to our first constitutional principles, though his colony settled in Africa may not have succeeded, and press-warrants still disgrace the annals of our tolerative jurisprudence, yet the maxims he has inculcated, and the steady perseverance he has evinced, through the course of a long life, in the cause of liberty, will not be without their effect. Good actions and sentiments are never totally lost.

Mr. Sharp was designed for the law, but never practised. He was afterwards in the Ordnance-office; but, having a genteel competency, and disapproving of the American war, he gave up his place, and took chambers in the Temple, where he has resided many years. Free from every domestic incumbrance, he has there applied his mind to the pursuit of general knowledge. He is a good linguist, both ancient
and

and modern, is well-read in divinity, extensively acquainted with law, an enlightened politician, and a great amateur of music. Every Sunday night he devotes to the harp, of which he is extremely fond. This, however, is meant for a devotional exercise, since the Psalms of David, sung in Hebrew by himself, are the constant accompaniments of his instrument. On these occasions, owing to his venerable appearance, united to his vivacious manner, he presents to his auditors the most lively appearance of bardic enthusiasm. A perfectly orthodox Christian in his belief, he has too much sense to fall into those narrow bigoted sentiments which disgrace the rigid profession of many otherwise excellent characters; he therefore relaxes sometimes into innocent gaiety, and is seen amusing himself at a convivial meeting, held at a tavern in Fleet-street, once every week, for the purpose of singing old English madrigals. His voice is good, and his judgment and execution considerably above mediocrity. This partiality for music, also, makes him a constant attendant at the cathedral-service of St. Paul's.

Mr. Sharp's literary labours have been principally directed to theology, politics, and juridical economy. In his Dissertation on the Prophecies, he differs from Dr. Williams and Bishop Newton in many important particulars. In another tract he has become the defender of Original Sin, the existence and operations of evil spirits, and the doctrine of the Trinity. He has also added his quota of endeavour to abolish the Gothic practice of duelling. In the treatise alluded

to, he has proved that the decision of private quarrels by private combat is contrary to law; and, when one of the parties falls, that the survivor is guilty of wilful murder; and in this conclusion few thinking men will differ from him. His work, entitled "Legal Means of Political Reformation," and his "View of the State of Government under the System of Frankpledge," are monuments of patriotism, which will ever rank him among the Hampdens and Sidney's of this country.

Mr. Sharp possesses a very extensive library, where a theologian, a lawyer, a classic, a politician, an antiquary, or an orientalist, might find ample amusement, suited to their different tastes. His collection of Bibles is esteemed the best in the kingdom.

Mr. Sharp, though now nearly eighty, pursues his studies, like Cato, with all the ardour of youth. Within these last four years he has made himself tolerably proficient in Arabic. But it must be remembered, that age to him is no burden; that he has lived a temperate and regular life, and that Reason has always maintained her supremacy over his passions: his declining age, therefore, like the evening of a fine summer's day, is calm and clear.

His form is the medium between the thin and the athletic, his stature of the middle size, his countenance clear, his disposition cheerful, his gait upright, his nerves steady, and his actions, though thus considerably advanced in years, possess all the sprightliness of youth.

The posthumous biographer of this excellent man
will

will be able to do complete justice to his virtues. His name and actions will adorn the British Plutarch, for the imitation of the old; and his virtues will necessarily be emblazoned in the British Nepos,* as a model for the instruction of the young. He will be ranked with our Howards and our Hanways, as one of the most worthy of his countrymen. Here let us, however, consider, that we have perhaps already said more than will be grateful to the eye of modest merit; we shall only hope, that our deserved praise, and the general esteem of all his contemporaries, will occasion this good man to continue his virtuous course, till he shall meet with the future and everlasting reward which his religion has taught him to believe in and expect. O.

LORD PELHAM

IS eldest son of Lord Pelham, who succeeded to that title upon the death of Thomas Holles Pelham, Duke of Newcastle and Marquis of Clare, to whom he was the next in succession in the male line. The Earl of Lincoln, who succeeded to the title of Duke of Newcastle, being the son of his sister, and married also to his niece, the daughter of the late Right

* An excellent school-book, written by Dr. Mavor, of Woodstock; which comprises the lives of all the most illustrious Britons, from Alfred to Howard, and which is recommended to general adoption by the obvious truth, that *example is more seductive and powerful than precept.*

Hon. Henry Pelham, prime minister in the reign of George the Second, to whom, and to his heirs male, the title of Duke was limited by patent bearing date the 13th of November 1756, as was the Barony of Pelham to the present Lord, by another patent of the present King granted the 4th of May 1762.

Mr. Pelham was elected a representative for the county of Sussex at the general election in 1780; and arranging himself on the Treasury side of the House, he continued to vote on that side during the remainder of Lord North's administration, till March 1782. On the appointment of the new administration, the name of Mr. Pelham was the only person from his side of the House which displayed himself in the new arrangements. He obtained the office of surveyor-general of the ordnance, and continued to hold it under the succeeding administration of Lord Shelburne.

This party being driven from power by the coalition in 1783, Mr. Pelham attached himself to Lord North and Mr. Fox, and was appointed secretary of Ireland under the Lord-lieutenancy of the late Earl of Northington. But the coalition being in their turn compelled to retire from office at the beginning of the year 1784, Mr. Pelham was dismissed, and he in consequence became a decisive and active opponent of all the measures of the succeeding administration. He continued to pursue this line of political conduct till the defection of the Duke of Portland and his connexions had reduced the numbers of the Opposition in the two Houses of Parliament so considerably,

siderably, as to give no farther alarm to the Minister, nor to afford any hope of future preferment or emolument to those who adhered to the principles of the Opposition. In this situation Mr. Pelham once more changed his party, and was converted to the interest of the late administration. He was, thereupon, restored to his former post of Irish secretary, and he continued to hold that office during the government of Earl Camden.

We cannot consider these instances of tergiversation as reflecting great lustre on an eminent political character; on the contrary, we lament that the fashion of the times at all authorizes such dereliction from public principle, and we are forced to admit, with Sir William Draper in his reply to Junius, that the "principles of the most exalted characters hang too loosely about them."

Upon the change of the cabinet, which took place in consequence of Mr. Pitt's removal from office, Mr. Pelham was included in the new administration, and was appointed secretary of state for the home department, in the room of the Duke of Portland, who exchanged that situation for the presidency of the council. On the 29th June 1801, he was, in consequence of this arrangement, called up to the House of Peers by writ, and placed in his father's barony by the title of Lord Pelham of Stanmer in Sussex. On the 16th of the following month his Lordship married Lady Mary Osborne, sister to the late Duke of Leeds.

In private life the manners and address of Lord Pelham

expectations. He in fact so closely united himself with the party of that great man, that, under the subsequent administration of Lord Bute, he was deprived of his Lord-lieutenancy.

The outset of his political life was uniformly distinguished by an opposition to the court faction, and by his zeal for the liberties, glory, and constitution of his country. He was of the number of those who warmly opposed, with a sort of prescience of its consequences, the American Stamp-Act, which was passed in 1762; and he particularly distinguished himself by his censures of the terms of the peace, and of all the measures of the Bute and Grenville administrations.

Such conduct strongly recommended the Duke to the confidence of the popular party; and, in the Rockingham administration, which succeeded that of the Grenville, he obtained the appointment of secretary of state to the foreign department. To the honour of his Grace and his colleagues, a wiser and more liberal system was pursued, the obnoxious Stamp-Act was repealed, and a spirit of equity and moderation characterized every measure of the new administration.

A division of sentiments having been effected among the leading men, by the intrigues of that secret faction, whose influence has done so much mischief, his Grace resigned on the 22d of May 1766, because he would not act unless Lord Chat-ham were one of the ministry. A new administration

tion was in consequence formed in the month of August, consisting wholly of the friends of Lord Chatham, and the Duke of Grafton had the honour to be placed at the head of the Treasury. This patriotic party was speedily undermined, as the preceding had been, and, in little more than a year, a division and mutual jealousy having been effected, the Lords Chatham, Shelburne, and Northington, resigned.

This was the most critical and interesting epoch of the life of the Duke of Grafton.

He and Earl Camden retained their places after their patriotic friends had resigned, and thus exposed themselves to the suspicion of the patriots, and to the invectives of the immortal pen of Junius.

This party writer, although so eloquent, and whose political style will long remain a model, will not, however, be received as an authority by any sober historian. No person at this day estimates the character of the Duke of Grafton from the twelve philippics addressed to him by Junius. To a certain degree, his Grace undoubtedly committed himself. He continued to act with men whose principles he has ever been supposed to disavow, and, by the countenance of his name, gave a colour to measures which, probably, might not without that sanction have been carried into execution. It is a fact, which cannot be wholly palliated, that his Grace held a responsible situation in a Tory ministry from 1767 to 1775.

There is, however, strong reason to believe, that

his Grace was for a long time in a minority in the cabinet. His whole life belies the supposition, that he approved of the principle of taxing the colonies, and of the other unconstitutional doctrines which were acted upon during this period. However, on the 10th of November 1775, he resigned his office of Lord Privy-Seal; and this resignation, united to his subsequent opposition to the violent measures of administration, furnished demonstrative proof in favour of his political consistency. It is understood, that his Grace resigned as soon as he discovered the mad project in the cabinet of conquering America, and of introducing a system of taxation by force of arms.

His Grace was afterwards found in the patriotic lists of Opposition during the whole of the American war. And when, in 1782, the close union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties effected the overthrow of Lord North, his Grace was restored to his former office of Lord Privy-Seal. This situation he held till April 1783, when he and his friends were compelled to give way to the preponderating influence of the ever to be lamented coalition.

Since that period his Grace has held no ostensible situation under the government, but he has never omitted, in parliament, to offer his opinions on every important occasion. He uniformly disapproved of the principle of the late war, and ever considered it as pregnant with mischief to the constitution and prosperity of the British empire. His eloquent and most pathetic speech upon his seceding from parliament

liament drew tears from the writer of this article. It was an awful moment to hear such illustrious and independent patriots as the Dukes of Grafton and Bedford, the Marquis of Lansdown, and the Earls of Moira, Suffolk, and Guilford, declare successively their design to secede from their senatorial duties, which had become so useless and mischievous. The Duke of Grafton concluded one of the most interesting speeches ever heard in a public assembly, with the following declaration, "*I shall retire, my Lords, to my country-seat, to instruct my children; and await, in awful silence, the eventful period which I see approaching*"

The reader has thus rapidly followed the political career of the Duke of Grafton. He will now find it no less interesting to view him in his domestic life, as a private and opulent nobleman.

His Grace has been twice married. From his first Duchess, who was the daughter of Lord Ravensworth, he was divorced in March 1769. He was married to his present Duchess in the May of the same year. By his two marriages he has had seventeen children, four by the first, and thirteen by the last; fifteen of whom, seven sons and eight amiable daughters, are still living.* With such an interesting family, who, that has children, will doubt,

* His eldest son, the Earl of Euston, was born in the year 1760, and has represented the university of Cambridge in five successive parliaments; he is, moreover, lord lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, colonel of one of its regiments of militia, and ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks.

that the Duke of Grafton is a sincere patriot, and real friend to the interests of his country. What better pledge of integrity can the public expect, than that its first servants should possess minds fraught with intelligence, and hearts which beat with the sensibility of parents.†

His Grace has been Chancellor of the University of Cambridge upwards of thirty years; and, by his influence and patronage, is conceived to have been the means of introducing the liberal and active spirit, which has peculiarly distinguished that university. Those friends of civil and religious liberty, who are its members, have always expressed their high sense of his Grace's liberal sentiments, while his conduct has been so moderate, as on no occasion to give offence, even to the partizans of passive obedience. In testimony of the flattering opinion entertained of his Grace's principles, we shall quote the elegant *Ode to Liberty*, written by that amiable poet, Mr. George Dyer, late of Emanuel:

“ May Fitzroy, too, the gen'rous transport share;
And rais'd by love of thee, and love of truth,
View Liberty's long lustre mild and clear,
Till its full orb illumine Britannia's youth,
And I, the meanest of the tuneful throng,
On Cam's fair banks, will chant to thee the grateful song.”

His generous patronage of Mr. Gray ought not to

• The man who “*hath not music in his soul*,” that is to say, whose soul is not alive to the sympathies of filial and paternal love, and to the tender affections of private life, ought seldom to be trusted by a sovereign or his people.

be forgotten. Mr. G. was known as an excellent poet and man of letters, but was wholly unprovided for, when, without any solicitation, the Duke, as chancellor, advanced him to the Professorship of Modern History, worth upwards of 300*l.* per annum. Mr. G. deeply impressed with a sense of his obligation, volunteered the following lines into the Ode performed on the occasion of the installation of the Duke as chancellor, on the 1st of July 1769.

But hark ! the portals sound, and pacing forth
 With solemn steps and slow,
 High potentates, and dames of royal birth,
 And mitred fathers, in long order go:
 Great Edward, with the lilies on his brow
 From haughty Gallia torn,
 And sad Chatillon, on her bridal morn
 That wept her bleeding love, and princely Clare,
 And Anjou's heroine, and the paler Rose,
 The rival of her crown, and of her woes,
 And either Henry there,
 The murder'd Saint, and the majestic Lord,
 That broke the bonds of Rome:
 (Their tears, their little triumphs o'er,
 Their human passions now no more,
 Save Charity, that glows beyond the tomb !)
 All that on Granta's fruitful plain
 Rich streams of regal bounty pour'd,
 And bade these awful fanes and turrets rise,
 To hail their Fitzroy's festal morning come;
 And thus they speak in soft accord
 The liquid language of the skies.

" What is grandeur, what is pow'r ?
 Heavier toil, superior pain,
 What the bright reward we gain ?

The grateful mem'ry of the good.
 Sweet is the breath of vernal show'r,
 The bee's collected treasures sweet,
 Sweet music's melting fall, but sweeter yet
 The still small voice of Gratitude."

Foremost and leaning from her golden cloud
 The venerable Marg'ret see!

"Welcome, my noble son (she cries aloud),

To this, thy kindred train, and me:

Pleas'd in thy lineaments we trace

A Tudor's* fire, a Beaufort's grace.

Thy lib'ral heart, thy judging eye,

The flower unheeded shall descry,

And bid it rot and heav'n's altars shed

The fragrance of its blushing head:

Shall raise from earth the latent gem

To glitter on the diadem.

Lo! Granta waits to lead her blooming band,

Not obvious, not obtrusive, she

No vulgar praise, no venal incense flings;

Nor dares with courtly tongue refin'd

Profane thy inborn royalty of mind:

She reveres herself and thee.

With modest pride to grace thy youthful brow

The laureate wreath, that Cecil wore, she brings,

And to thy just, thy gentle hand

Submits the fasces of her sway,

While Spirits blest above and Men below

Join with glad voice the loud symphonious lay."

Mr. Gray will not be suspected of a disposition to flatter, by those who know the independence of his mind.

* The Countess was a Beaufort, and married to a Tudor: hence the application of this line to the Duke of Grafton, who claims descent from both these families,

The Duke for many years past has been occupied in collecting books, with more assiduity than almost any nobleman of his time. His library is copious, splendid, and well chosen; and is particularly valuable for many incomparable copies of the scarcest and most esteemed classic authors in their earliest editions, which the liberality of their owner renders accessible to all students who wish to consult and use them, in the true spirit of one who loves, and promotes, and patronizes literature.* We will venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, or any imputation of exaggeration and servility, that none of the Duke's contemporaries, under similar circumstances of situation, with a very numerous and expensive family, can boast such instances of spontaneous generosity and disinterested service to learned men, whether by relieving their embarrassments, or encouraging their works,

The Duke is the reputed author of a well-written and judicious pamphlet, published about ten years ago, on the subject of the Church-Liturgy and Sub-

* Among numerous instances, one may be instanced, relative to the new edition of Griesbach's New Testament. His Grace offered to print a new edition in England, at his own expence; but, as Griesbach had been employed for many years in the improvement of his work, it was judged more expedient that it should be reprinted on the continent, under the author's own inspection, upon paper sent from England by the Duke. This was done, and his Grace has since distributed a great number of copies. Others he has put on sale at a low charge, for the general convenience of the public,

scriptions,

scriptions, which was favourably received by the public, and has passed through several editions.

In religion, he is understood to be friendly to Socinian or Unitarian doctrines, and he frequently attends the Unitarian chapel in Essex-Street, of which Dr. Disney, since the resignation of Mr. Lindsey, is become the officiating pastor. His Grace is said to have printed, for private circulation, a very interesting tract, containing his own private sentiments in matters of religion.

In person, the Duke of Grafton is of the middle size, but slender, with a countenance shrewd and intelligent, and thought to resemble that of his royal progenitors. His manners are highly agreeable and fascinating; his dress is remarkable for great plainness and neatness. As a parliamentary orator he is very animated, and speaks with great dignity and interest; his style is strong and classical, and he always engages the respectful attention of his auditors. He has been admitted, even by his enemies, to be a nobleman of great talents and learning. Lord Chatham evinced his high opinion of him by placing him at the head of his own administration; and Mr. Wilkes, and even Junius, have acknowledged that he possesses the most elevated powers of mind.

His Grace is ranger of Whittlebury-Forest, his Majesty's game-keeper at Newmarket, receiver-

* Entitled, "Hints submitted to the serious attention of the Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, newly associated."

general of the profits of the seals in the King's Bench and Commons Pleas, and of the prizage on wines, chancellor of the University of Cambridge, high-steward of Dartmouth, recorder of Thetford and Coventry, a governor of the Charter-House, and a knight of the garter. May he long live the blessing of his family, and the ornament and hope of his country!

A. D.

MR. COOKE,

LATE SECRETARY OF STATE IN IRELAND.

NOTWITHSTANDING the vehement opposition made by the people of Ireland to an union with Great Britain, yet that country almost ever has been, and it is likely will ever be, governed, even internally, by the counsels and advice of Englishmen.

Among those who have for some years past guided the affairs of Ireland, Mr. Cooke is not the least conspicuous. He is the son of the late Dr. Cooke, dean of Ely, and provost of King's College, Cambridge, who died two years since at Bath, a man distinguished for his high and literary attainments.

Mr. Cooke, at an early age, was placed upon the King's foundation at Eton School, where he received a classical education, and when qualified was sent to King's College, Cambridge.

In the year 1777, the late Earl of Buckinghamshire was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and the present Sir Richard Heron, who was then an eminent conveyancer,

conveyancer, was appointed chief secretary to that nobleman's administration.

Sir Richard was not long in this situation, before he found that the duties of his office made it necessary for him to call in the assistance of some confidential person, who, to use his own phrase at the time, would be "a faithful drudge," in the character of a confidential clerk. Accordingly, Sir Richard applied to some of his friends, then at Dublin Castle, to recommend him some young man of this description, who might be found at either of the English universities, possessing sufficient talents, and whose circumstances in life would render such a situation an object worthy his attention and acceptance.

By these friends Mr. Cooke was recommended to Sir Richard. Upon being applied to, he gladly embraced the situation, and was appointed chief clerk, or, to use the more palatable expression, *private secretary* to the chief secretary, at a salary of 200*l.* per annum.

Mr. Cooke continued for some time in this situation, in addition to which, he farther made himself useful to government, by supporting administration in many of their periodical publications, and by performing the duties of a certain non-descript office, which, though it wants a name, is nevertheless well known in the system of Irish administration: its business was to attend the sittings of the House of Commons, and be in readiness, at the direction of the Minister of the day, to communicate between
him

him and his friends, to acquaint them, in cases where their services might be wanted, of the urgency that called them, and, in a word, to assist ministerially in executing one part of the office of chief secretary. It was at a time when the minority of the Irish House of Commons was much more numerous and respectable than it has been of late years, and of course much more to be dreaded by the Minister, that Mr. Cooke was thus employed to hang upon their rear, and watch their motions. The duty, in many cases, was arduous and important: Mr. C. discharged it to the full satisfaction of his employers, and was rewarded, first, by a place of 200*l.* per annum in the Dublin Custom-House, and, after a due probation, by the lucrative office of chief clerk to the House of Commons. This office was conferred on Mr. C. during the administration of the Duke of Rutland.

The unpopularity which attached to his Grace, in the early part of his administration, occasioned by the introduction of the *Irish Propositions*; the *doctrine of attachments* against the High Sheriffs of cities and counties, for calling aggregate meetings of the free-men and freeholders, &c. &c. produced in the daily and other periodical prints, at that time, animadversions, and (some indeed scandalous) libels, not only against the *public measures*, but the *private conduct* of that nobleman. These circumstances afforded Mr. Cooke a favourable opportunity of rendering himself not only extremely useful, but agreeable, to government, by his vindications of the administration, through the medium of pamphlets and newspapers; and

and for these as well as his other services, it was that Mr. Cooke was appointed clerk of the Irish House of Commons; an office, the duty of which required little more than attendance and regularity, and was rewarded by salary and emoluments, which amounted, it is said, to 1400*l.* or 1500*l.* per annum. This office was settled on him for life, *i. e.* he had the power of nomination when he should himself be inclined to retire.

Mr. Cooke continued in this situation until the important period of the Regency, which occurred during the administration of the present Marquis of Buckingham, in 1789, when Mr. Charles Francis Sheridan (who then held the employment of secretary for the military department in Ireland), voting in parliament for declaring the Prince of Wales unrestricted Regent of Ireland, was dismissed from office, and Mr. Cooke appointed to succeed him: he was, at the same time, nominated to a seat in the House of Commons (of which he was then clerk) for one of the government boroughs.

Already he had given several proofs of his talents, both in a political and a literary way; and it was supposed, that those talents could be turned to better use in the capacity of a senator, than in the confined character of a noter of minutes. It was thought, that a man possessing considerable learning, much strong sense, and political information, would have been a respectable, if not a brilliant, parliamentary partizan. In this, at least, however, he disappointed his patrons; for, on his first essay in debate, it was found that he
wanted

wanted voice, and temper, and management, for a public speaker. His voice was so low and guttural as to be scarcely audible, his temper hot and irascible, and his management of himself and his argument so incautious as to leave both open to ridicule and retort. There were other reasons which co-operated to prevent Mr. Cooke from being a frequent or a formidable supporter of his party. The situations he had successively filled, from his commencement in public life, were known: in some of them he had been so recently employed, that whenever he spoke the House viewed him rather in his former characters than in that of a brother-member; hence his arguments were frequently answered by the ridicule, contempt, or invective of Opposition, against the agents of corruption, the whippers-in of a party, or the government clerks. It was neither for the honour of Mr. C. nor for the benefit of his friends, that he should too frequently give occasion to the malice of the Oppositionists to expatiate upon these topics, even though he possessed more of the qualities of a parliamentary speaker than he appeared to do; he, therefore, prudently declined being prominent in debate, and, for the future, limited his senatorial exertions to the giving of a silent vote, or to the short explanation of a public account or a parliamentary estimate.

Mr. Cooke continued secretary for the military department in Ireland from the year 1789 until the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam in 1795, who displaced him, and appointed Colonel John Doyle his successor. Lord Fitzwilliam also dismissed Sackville

ville Hamilton, Esq. from the office of secretary for the civil department, and appointed Lodge Morris, Esq. his successor.

A few years since Mr. Cooke married a young lady, daughter of Colonel Ham Gorges, with whom he obtained a considerable fortune.

Lord Camden having succeeded Lord Fitzwilliam in the government of Ireland, he immediately dismissed both Colonel Doyle and Mr. Morris, and appointed Mr. Cooke to the office of secretary to the civil department, in the room of Mr. Morris.

Previously to the late unhappy rebellion, Mr. Cooke was particularly distinguished by his zeal and his activity in developing the conspiracy, and in procuring the arrest of the principal conspirators. But it is not these laudable exertions of his, in restoring or preserving the peace of the country, that have of late made him so conspicuous; it was his publication of his arguments for and against an Union, which was designed as the precursor of that measure, and intended, no doubt, to smooth the way for it. This work neither answered the hopes which were formed of it, nor corresponded with the literary reputation of its author. Instead of preparing the public mind for the favourable reception of that measure, it contained a collection of topics so injudicious, as to raise a host of enemies against its favourite object; it disgusted the loyal, by attempting to prove that the good government and the independence of the country were incompatible, and it gave strength to the disaffected, by declaring, on authority almost official, that the evils

evils they complained of, and which they had taken up arms under pretence of redressing, existed even more mischievously than they had stated. In a literary point of view it was equally objectionable; for it boasted neither ingenuity of argument, nor beauty of composition. W. Y.

MAJOR JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

THE family of Major Cartwright is of great antiquity in the county of Nottingham. By the female line, through a descent of five generations, he is sprung from the Pierreponts:* one of his ancestors represented the borough of Retford, in the reign of Charles I.† and a younger branch of his house has represented the county of Northampton in several parliaments. There are, perhaps, some to whom these circumstances may most recommend him, but

* Which gave him relationship by blood to the late Duke of Kingston and the present Duke of Portland.

† An ancestor of the Major's, as may be seen in Clarendon, was also comptroller of the navy; and commanded at one time a squadron of the King's ships; and Sir Hugh Cartwright, another of them, had been so strenuous a supporter of the royal cause, that he was obliged, on the elevation of Cromwell, to retire to Antwerp.

The Major himself is a younger brother of the gentleman who spent so many years in Labrador, and published a Journal, in three quarto volumes, of the events which there happened to him. He is also brother to the Rev. Edmund Cartwright, author of *Armine and Elvira*, and other poems; and who has established a high reputation for discoveries in mechanics, which are of the greatest utility in manufactures.

1700-1800.

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his proper merit is in himself. He is mild in his manners; of a temper warm, but governed; ardent and steady in his affections; elevated in his sentiments; daring and indefatigable; possessed of all that is essential in politeness, yet negligent of frivolous forms and fashions, with a strong sense of moral and religious obligation, as appears in all his writings.

An ardour in the pursuit of virtuous fame was the first, and will, perhaps, be the last passion of his soul. This has impelled him ever to do more than his duty, but rendered him careless of those rewards which he deserved. Though he had served with the late Duke of York, Lord Howe, Sir Hugh Palliser, and Admiral Byron, every one of whom have borne testimony to his merit, the rank of lieutenant terminated his career of naval promotion. But his career of generous ambition and virtuous action began with his earliest youth, and will end only with his life.

While but a boy, he left his father's house to engage in the service of the King of Prussia, whose heroic deeds had stimulated his youthful ambition. Being overtaken by a friend, he was prevailed upon to return, and divert his mind towards the military service of his own country; and he soon after entered into the navy, under Lord Howe.* While with his

* He embarked in 1758, at the age of eighteen, and became a lieutenant in 1762. He was present, in 1758, at the capture of Cherbourg and the destruction of its naval basin; and in 1759 was in the glorious action on the French coast, when Sir Edward Hawke

Lordship and the Duke of York, the daringness of his spirit was shewn, by his leaping from a 74-gun ship into the sea, as the ship was under sail, in order to save the life of a young gentleman who had fallen overboard. And he afterwards, while a midshipman, made a proposal to Lord Howe, to undertake the burning of some French men of war, which his Lordship was then blocking up in a harbour;* but Lord Howe thought the attempt too hazardous.

Hawke defeated *Conflans*. Lord Howe's ship, the *Magnanime*, had a full share in that engagement; and concluded her part of it by a sharp contest with the French *Hero*, of equal force; both ships carrying 74 guns. The *Hero* struck her opponent.

When Lord Howe, a few days after that action, was selected by the admiral to command a meditated attack on that part of the French fleet which escaped into the river *Vilaine*, only one lieutenant and two midshipmen were taken by his Lordship out of his own ship, to attend him on that service. Mr. Cartwright was one of the latter; and it will be seen that he did not afterwards lose his Lordship's good opinion.

It was about this time that our young seaman reformed the exercise of the great guns on ship-board; which, until curtailed by him, was as long and tiresome as the manual exercise of a soldier used to be. Slight as this circumstance appears, it may perhaps be considered as an indication of a mind early turned to *the reforming of bad systems*.

His improved and concise mode was communicated to his friend Falconer, who gives it as an article in his *Marine Dictionary*. Here it may not be improper to add, that Lord Howe, ever attentive to the discipline of his ship, had all the seamen instructed in the use of small arms, and committed the charge of this instruction to Mr. Cartwright and a Mr. Cannon, whose sole employment it was, until the end in view was accomplished.

* The river *Charente*, below *Rochfort*.

Under Sir Hugh Palliser and Admiral Byron, at Newfoundland, he distinguished himself for five years successively, by his able and upright administration of justice, in the extensive districts committed to his jurisdiction; by supplying the defects of the laws, in cases of difficulty, with judgment, address, and firmness; and in being the proposer of several reformations. He will also be remembered in that island, so long as it shall remain in English hands, as the discoverer of the country to the very centre of the island, to which he penetrated through unexplored woods and the settlements of hostile savages, with the view, amongst other generous purposes, of rendering them friends, and affording them the means of becoming Christians.*

In 1771 he was obliged to quit his ship for the recovery of his health, which had greatly suffered, and for two or three years had been constantly declining. But sickness could not repress the activity of a mind devoted to the public, nor could the allurements of society wean him from this strong attachment. He very soon wrote a free and manly pamphlet, on the Rights and Interests of the Adventurers in the Newfoundland Fishery, against the Neglects of the Legislature, and the Oppressions of

* On this occasion he penetrated to, and discovered, a lake, which proved to be the capacious source of the river Exploits, emptying itself into a bay of the same name, on the east coast, in latitude $49^{\circ} 30'$. This lake, but without any name, was delineated on a chart of the island, published by Jeffries, geographer to the King, in 1775.

Governors,* which he presented to the secretary of state. He drew up, also, a plan for a perpetual supply of English oak to the navy, for cultivating the royal forests, and other great advantages to the nation, which met with the highest approbation; and which he laid before the ministers, but without receiving even an answer to his many applications upon the subject. They stole, indeed, a part of it, which answered their own purposes, but by no means secured those benefits to the public which were the author's object; and, with regard to the whole of the plan, the best idea that can be conveyed of it will be in the words of a friend† of the Minister, to whom it was shewn, who candidly remarked, "We are not honest enough for such plans as these."

In 1774 he could no longer suppress his feelings for the sufferings of America, and the fatal consequence to his own country, which he foresaw, from the arbitrary principles and rash conduct of the ministers; and he then wrote his first Treatise on Politics, a treatise that was then neglected, as full of false prognostics and chimerical proposals. But time has shewn, that it was prophetic, and containing instructions of the soundest policy. This was followed, from time to time, by other publications, in all of which he shews a true knowledge of our

* This little work was never printed, having been intended only as advice to, and expostulation with, the Minister who presided over the department which had the superintendence of the fishery.

† Doctor Douglas, now Bishop of Salisbury. See Letter to the Duke of Newcastle. Appendix.

constitution, an ardent love of liberty, and a contempt of private interest and personal danger, when in competition with the public good.

He was early distinguished, and decided his fitness for a seat in parliament, by his "Vindication of the Legislative Rights of the Commonalty," in which he traces, with precision, the declension of our parliament, from its ancient purity and excellence to its present corrupt state, refutes all the arguments in favour of the rotten system, and clearly points out the means of reformation. Besides addressing this work to the public, and presenting it to the King, he used every other effort in the power of a private person, towards setting on foot the proposed reformation, from a full conviction that nothing less could save his country.

The town of Nottingham shewed their gratitude to the author of so valuable a gift, and had the honour of being the first who wished to send him as their representative to parliament.

Prior to Mr. C.'s first voyage to Newfoundland, he commanded a cutter stationed on the coast of Dorsetshire; when, going into Plymouth for provisions and some trifling articles of refitment, he had an opportunity of witnessing a mode of making out public accounts, which may well cause such accounts to be viewed with distrust, until a radical reform shall have obtained, for the nation, stewards who will sift them to the bottom, and make examples of those who abuse the trusts reposed in them. An account of the application of the moneys remitted to the

dock-yard was drawn up to be laid before *the House of Commons*, in which every ship, and other object of expense, was set forth in the first column, and other columns were appropriated to building, re-building, repairs, refitment, &c. &c.; and then came a column shewing the total expense. Mr. C. from a natural curiosity respecting his own vessel, the *Sherbourn*, was desirous of seeing what had been the expense incurred on her; but, as he knew it could not exceed 30*l.* or 35*l.* he rather expected it would have been included in the general article of *small craft*, than to have been particularly specified in a national account, which he did not suppose would descend to such minutiae.

In the proper column, however, he found the *Sherbourn*, when, looking forward to the column of *totals*, he saw, to his astonishment, a charge of 1200*l.* He took the earliest opportunity of personally communicating the fact to a Lord of the Admiralty, who had also a seat in the House of Commons; but he never heard that the mode of stating such accounts was corrected.

On his return from Newfoundland, at the close of the year 1770, he was invited by his original commander, Lord Howe, then appointed to commence a new war with Spain, relative to Falkland's Islands, to become one of his lieutenants in the *Queen*, a ship of 90 guns, which invitation was gladly accepted.

The dispute with Spain, however, being adjusted, the admiral's flag being struck, and the *Queen* made

a *guardship* at Spithead, the contrast between the dronish service which ensued, and the activity in which our lieutenant had moved for the thirteen years he had then been in the navy, was such as to be very ill relished by a mind like his; wherefore he took an early opportunity of retiring to recruit his health; and that circumstance seems to have decided the future complexion of his life.

In this retirement from naval activity, in executing abroad the will of the state, he had leisure for contemplating the principles and policy by which the state itself regulated its conduct. The seeds of American separation were now sown; the *Stamp Act* had been long passed and repealed; but the *Declaratory Act* having laid a new foundation for oppression, the folly and injustice of the government soon gave fresh cause of discontent to the colonies. Attending to the progress of the dispute, Mr. Cartwright formed his opinions; and when matters ripened into a dangerous crisis, feeling with warmth the interests of truth and justice, and anxious for the honour and prosperity of his country, he became in regular form an author.

His first essays were a series of letters in the spring of 1774, published in a newspaper: in January 1775 he made additions, and then published the whole as a pamphlet, entitled, "*American Independence, the Interest and Glory of Great Britain.*" Foreseeing the issue of the tyrannical conduct of his country, unless timely corrected, as well as the sound policy of guarding against future disputes, he proposed to
declare

declare America independent of *parliament*, and *then* to form with her the closest connexion, founded on their natural relationship and common interest; his Majesty still remaining king of each state, the states to be separate, and Great Britain to be the umpire of their disputes, the guarantee of their separate independence one of another, and the guardian of the whole; receiving, at the same time, from each such a specified monopoly of certain branches of her trade, or such an annual sum of money, as should be agreed on, for naval protection of her territory and her commerce.

It is remarkable, that, in June of the same year, a committee of the American Congress drew up a paper, in which it is said, "And we hereby declare, that, on a reconciliation with Britain, we shall not only continue to grant *aids in time of war* as aforesaid, but whenever she shall think fit to abolish her monopoly, and give us the same privileges of trade as Scotland received at the union, and allow us a free commerce with all the rest of the world; we will willingly agree (and we doubt not it will be ratified by our constituents) to give and pay into the Sinking Fund *one hundred thousand pounds sterling per ann.* for the term of one hundred years; which, duly, faithfully, and inviolably applied to that purpose, is demonstrably more than sufficient to extinguish *all her present national debt*, since it will not amount, at legal British interest, to more than 230,000,000*l.*

"But, if Britain does not think fit to accept this proposition, we, in order to remove her groundless jealousies,

jealousies, that we aim at independence, and an abolition of the Navigation-Act, (which hath, in truth, never been our intention) and to avoid all future disputes about the right of making that, and other acts, for regulating our commerce, do hereby declare ourselves ready and willing to enter into a *covenant with Britain*, that she shall fully possess, enjoy, and exercise that right for a hundred years to come, the same being *bona fide* used for the common benefit.*

That counsels of a very different cast from those of Mr. Cartwright were adopted by his Majesty and his ministers; this country has had sufficient cause to lament; nor is it uninstrucive to observe, that, at the period alluded to, no one member, of the then numerous and powerful Opposition in parliament, could elevate his mind to the magnanimity of approving and recommending American independence; nay, they agreed with ministers in treating such notions as marks of disaffection; and Mr. *Burke*, afterwards, made it his boast, that, if there were one member of the House a greater champion than the rest for the supremacy of parliament, it was himself; a boast as devoid of constitutional principle, as of that wisdom which ought to distinguish a statesman!

The plan suggested by Mr. Cartwright, which has been *already observed*, was, in the *political* sense of the word, a UNION between Britain and America, under one and the same crown, but separate and in-

* Franklin's Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces, page 363.

dependent legislatures; and, by the last of his publications, it appears, he does not approve of any other kind of union with IRELAND. President Laurens, on his release from the Tower, having been asked his opinion of Mr. Cartwright's proposal, made a reply to this effect:—he observed, that, for the peace and happiness of mankind, it was probably better the union did not take place, since it would have given the united countries a degree of strength, that would have made them formidable to the whole world.

With regard to the above-mentioned paper, drawn up in the American committee, it is well known that it never appeared on the minutes of Congress, “a severe act, which arrived about that time, having determined them not to give the sum proposed in it.”

In August 1775, Mr. Cartwright received his commission as Major of the Nottinghamshire militia, then raised for the first time since the passing of the Militia-Act, in 1757.

It was in this year, 1775, that the American sword of *resistance* first drew British blood; and that the Major published “a Letter to Edmund Burke, Esq. controverting the Principles of American Government laid down in his Speech of April 19, 1774.”

Early in the spring of the year 1776, Mr. Cartwright received a new invitation from Lord Howe, to accompany him on service. To a lieutenant on half-pay, who had “a partiality for a naval life,” and who

who felt to his Lordship a strong attachment, from a reverence of his character as a man, an admiration of his talents and conduct as a commander, and a grateful affection to his person as his professional preceptor and the friend of his fortunes,—such an invitation could not but be most alluring. There was, in effect, included in it a tender of rank, of command, and probably of wealth; but the lieutenant had read, he had reasoned, and he had written, on the American dispute. He shed tears, but he preserved his principles;* and although Lord Howe expressed his full persuasion, that he should be able, by his powers of negotiating as commissioner, to accommodate the subsisting differences, without having recourse to arms; the lieutenant seems to have formed a more solid judgment than the commissioner; and, at all events, proved he was incapable of hazarding the possibility of the dilemma he must have been in, should arms be ultimately resorted to.†

In 1777 the Major published “a Letter to the Earl of Abingdon,” expostulating with his Lordship on certain constitutional points, on which he judged his Lordship to have erred. The writer of these memoirs is not in possession of that letter, but the noble

* In consequence of this refusal to draw his sword against the cause of liberty, we find that he did really forego all those splendid advantages which would most evidently have attended his services, and which were actually obtained by the officer who supplied his place.

† See Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p. 55.

Earl, he recollects, spoke of it as the controversy of a gentleman.

On the 2d of April, as the Major informs us,* he presented to the King, at his levee, "Proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain;" and he again urged upon his Majesty, about the end of that year, an attention to his proposal, in another paper which he then presented. The reader will not expect to hear, that the advice of one, who had vindicated American resistance, obtained him a seat in the Privy-Council; although it will scarcely admit of a doubt, that, had his advice been followed, his Majesty would now have been king of all English America.

The writer, having been favoured with a copy of the above-mentioned paper, has thought it merited a place in these memoirs. It is as follows:

"May it please your Majesty,

"That a loyal subject be permitted to remind your Majesty of the proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain, which your Majesty was graciously pleased to receive at his hands, on the 2d day of April last.

"Experience, since that period of time, hath spoken very forcibly in support of such measures as were therein recommended; it will continue, it must continue, to speak the same language; because the principles had their foundation in nature, rectitude, and lawful policy, contrary to those of iniquity and

* *Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated*, p. 249.

self-contradiction, upon which a corrupt system of government hath been adhered to, and to those also, of a state-expediency, and an unwarrantable spirit of domination, upon which your servants, and even parliament, have betrayed your Majesty into an unjust and ruinous war.

“The war hath been altogether unjust, because the idea of the colonies having been subject to the authority of parliament, while, in truth, they only owed allegiance to your Majesty, was founded in error, and was, in fact, incompatible with the British constitution ; as hath long since been demonstrated in the writings of several private men, one of which number was the writer of these lines, who, certainly, would not dare to approach your Majesty with a direct denial of the just rights of parliament.

“He dares, however, to deny, and thinks it his duty to remonstrate against, any unconstitutional authority whatsoever, which, in exercising its usurped powers, in a way that, however well intended, must, according to his apprehension, inevitably cause his Sovereign’s reign to be calamitous and inglorious, and threatens to involve his country in a total ruin. Humbly submitted by,” &c.

17 Dec. 1777.

What different objects carry different men to courts ! Although Lord North was extremely averse in his own private judgment to the American war, he was too good a courtier to intrude disagreeable sentiments upon his Sovereign, and too much the humble servant of his master, to lose his place for his
opinions.

opinions. Nay, he is said to have carried his complaisance so far as to have been particularly sedulous in having interviews with all officers on their return from America; and in either inviting or forbidding them to appear at court, according as their opinions were favourable or unfavourable to the hope of reducing the colonies to unconditional subjection.

What is it about the supreme executive magistrate of a state, that produces such a sycophancy in the statesmen of an empire? Can it be any thing but the *degree* of his *power*? Roman emperors, we know, had their temples and their altars, and were worshipped as very gods. Even Turkish sovereigns, who can take off heads at pleasure, have the lowest prostrations from their slavish ministers; but the situation of a limited prince of a free people, if all were sound, ought not to inspire his counsellors with a servility that is treachery to the people.

Early in the spring of the same year, Major C. had published "Take your Choice, &c." and again, in July, a second edition, under the title of "The Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated; or, Take your Choice, &c.;" the work which the writer of the "*Sketch*" wished were in the hands of every Englishman.

In 1778, the militia being then embodied, the Major was with his regiment at Hull, where it seems that his assiduities drew from the General of the district, Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, an honourable mark of approbation.* It was

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p. 35.*

while

while forming the corps at this place, that the Major by desire of the Colonel, drew up standing orders and instructions, which were printed of a pocket-size, and distributed to all the commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Some extracts from this performance will give a just idea of this gentleman's notion of military duty. In the section of Instructions to the Officers, it is said,

“ At every proper and convenient opportunity, an officer should give due praise to those that keep themselves clean, and are careful to make a soldier-like appearance, and to do their duty with cheerfulness; using his best endeavours to inspire them with that pride in doing well, which makes the soldier's duty a pleasure; as well as with that no less desirable pride in their corps, which interests every soldier in the credit and honour of his regiment. These effects are only to be brought about by an exact discipline, regulated by justice, and tempered with humanity, respect, and politeness, so that the gentleman and the peasant, the colonel and the private centinel, may truly be *brother* soldiers. Love, and respect, mixed with awe, are the sentiments in the minds of the soldiers towards their officers, that unite their interests and their wishes; and without this union no regimental pride can take place, no regimental reputation be acquired. When moved to displeasure, an officer is particularly to avoid all oaths, or ungentleman-like or insulting expressions, to those who misbehave; but to reprimand them in such terms, as shew he feels for the disgrace they bring upon themselves, and is concerned that they oblige him to resort to the harsh powers of his superior station; and so, in short, as to excite *shame* and *sorrow*, but not *anger*, in the breasts of the offenders; by which means he will preserve the dignity of the officer, and his severities will produce their due effect; and, finally, he is both by example and authority to quicken the men's attention to every word of command, and to inculcate, above all things, the great duty of STEADINESS.

“ Either upon the parade, or in the field, an officer will more effectually recall the attention and steadiness of a forgetful soldier,

by a quick and reprimanding eye; or a silent token of observation, than by vociferation or abuse; for, the latter disgust and provoke more than they awe; besides, that they are in themselves breaches of good discipline, and very disrespectful to the commanding officer, and indeed to every officer present; while, on the contrary, the former is an instructive example to the irregular soldiers, of that silent attention and anxious care for the preservation of order, which ought strictly to be observed, by every officer and soldier, to the last moment that they are upon the parade or under arms; when nothing ought to be seen but perfect uniformity, accompanied by immovable steadiness, or quick, exact, and graceful movements; and nothing heard, but the proper sound of those movements, besides the strokes of the drum, the notes of the music, and the voice of the commanding officer.

“ Upon all duties of command, or of trust and confidence, such as detachments, guards, superintendence of drills, visiting of hospitals, of quarters, &c. &c. wherein officers act not immediately under the eye of a superior, it should be a most sacred point of honour with them not to omit the smallest tittle of any such duties, nor to do them in a careless or unmilitary manner; for, though their neglects may not come to the knowledge of the commanding officer, *yet they cannot be unknown to the soldiers*, which is far worse. And, even upon duties the most trifling, they ought always to pique themselves upon setting examples to the soldiers of obedience, punctuality, and unremitting attention. No men upon earth will fail to make good soldiers under such officers; and such examples, far more than the care or labours of the training officers, will form a regiment to order and discipline, and insure its answering the wishes of our country in the day of battle.

“ These, no doubt, are motives sufficiently strong; but, to men of principle and of feeling, there is, perhaps, a motive still more urgent with them, to let their own conduct on all occasions be proper examples to their men: the private soldier *never sits in judgment* upon his officer, but the officer frequently judges, and condemns, and punishes, the soldier; and the courts-martial in which he officiates are, in a free country, judicatures of a very harsh nature. How can a bacchanalian officer pass sentence upon a drunken sol-

dier? How can the inattentive punish the negligent? or the disorderly consign to the halberts the disobedient? without being guilty of the grossest insolence, "insolence of office," without filling the minds of the sufferers with all the indignation and hatred which tyranny ever inspires, and without subverting the best part of the foundations of discipline. To govern, through the medium of fear alone, is mean and hateful; as far as it may be necessary, it is always to be lamented; and too much pains cannot be used to substitute in its room the nobler principle of *emulation*."

The introduction to what respects the private soldier runs thus:

"A balloted militia-soldier, in a free nation, is one who, by a wise and equitable law, is under an obligation to act as a military representative of his parish, and to bear arms for the defence of his country. By serving faithfully in that capacity for three years, he may then remain peaceably at home for the rest of his life, under the protection of those whose lot it shall then be to appear in the same honourable character.

"A militia-substitute is he, who, by his own voluntary act, takes it upon himself to bear arms as the military representative of some one parish; and, by always remembering the honourable nature of the character he assumes, he ought to pride himself in supporting it like a man and a soldier.

"The great end of arming a militia is to defend the nation against foreign attacks, without exposing it, at the same time, to that danger to liberty, which is justly to be apprehended from all other military establishments; a militia-man is, therefore, the most honourable of all soldiers.

"It was with a design to impress continually these ideas upon our minds, that the device and motto which are worn upon the button, and borne in the colours of the regiment, were chosen. The *book* is an emblem of *law*, and the *cap*, of *liberty*; so that the device represents *liberty supported by law, and defended by the arms of the militia*. The motto in English would run thus:—"For our lives and liberties." Such a standard no Englishman can quit but with his life. Of a similar nature is the design which adorns the clasps of the officers sword-belts.

"It is meant to intimate, that so long as the militia shall have virtue and courage to defend the religious and civil rights of their country, they will be blessed with the protection of Divine Providence, and enjoy the glorious reward of freedom.

"This, then, being the great cause in which we are engaged, every man amongst us, who wants not the generous spirit of an Englishman, will delight in his duty, and cheerfully contribute to support an exact discipline; because it is impossible to do service to our country, or credit to ourselves, without it.

"In order, therefore, to render this task as easy as possible to the willing, and to prevent the undeserving (if such should get amongst us) from injuring and mortifying their fellow-soldiers, by bringing the regiment into disgrace for want of cleanliness, or skill, knowledge, steadiness, or integrity; these explanations are given, and standing orders and instructions are established, from which none can be allowed to depart or to deviate.

"But, before the separate articles are treated of, it may not be improper to describe, in a few words, what a soldier ought to be.

"A soldier should be vigorous and brave, and particularly proud of his personal cleanliness and military appearance; he should be temperate, regular, frugal, and provident; he should be skilful and ready in all parts of his exercise and manœuvres; strict in the performance of every duty and every movement, whether observed by his officer or not; and shew the same cheerful obedience to his corporal as his colonel. When posted as a sentinel, he should be vigilant, careful, and determined; his life should be less valued than the defence of his colours, or the preservation of his honour; and, as the grand secret and ornament of a soldier in the field, he should distinguish himself by constant attention, and an immovable steadiness. To such a soldier, every worthy officer will be a friend and a father.

"The first determination of a militia-man should be, to put on a soldier's character with his apparel; and, since all his duties may be done with care and pleasure, he should scorn the thought of ever subjecting himself to compulsion or disgrace. What a difference! To misbehave, and to be treated like a base slave, tormented by the stings of remorse, shame, and fear; or, to act as

becomes the defender of his country's liberty, and to enjoy the grand privilege of freedom,—that of *living without fear of any man*.

“What a good soldier should be, has been just now laid down; but let it be remembered, that, for making a good soldier, the best foundation is being a good man. A good man may always be relied upon; but, upon a bad man, there can be no dependence. When a soldier shall be a mere machine, like his firelock, then a bad man may make a good soldier, but not till then.”

The introductory observations on giving instructions for a march are as follow :

“This is the time for the officer and the non-commission officer to shew his attention and regard for order and regularity;—this is the time for the soldier to give proof of his discipline.

“There is no part of duty, during a campaign, of more importance than a march. Towns are taken, armies are defeated, and provinces won by a march! There is, perhaps, no standard of merit between regiment and regiment so much to be depended upon, as the mode in which they respectively perform a march. It is, therefore, incumbent upon a regiment, as it values its honour, to take all opportunities of conducting its removal from one quarter to another with every form and precaution of a march through an enemy's country.

“Disorder upon a march is not only grossly scandalous, but it retards and harasses the troops. It totally deprives them of that common principle of animation which they possess, while they move in one body, inspired by one soul: it is attended with easy surprize and sure defeat.

“Order, on the contrary, commands respect, gives perfect security let an enemy appear when and where he will, occasions celerity, and eases the troops, by bringing them so much sooner to their destined place of rest and refreshment.

“When a regiment considers a march as a field-day's exercise, never letting a rank or file be undressed, moving with a measured step, pushing forward with vigour and spirit, no man stirring out of his place, except at the regular halts, calculating to a minute its arrival at its destination, and there making its entrance with

the same silent attention and steadiness as is shewn before a reviewing general, then that regiment may be pronounced to be equal to any undertaking and fit for any enterprize.

“ From the circumstances of long stages, bad roads, foul weather, heat of the sun, &c. marches will sometimes be fatiguing; but what then! an English soldier scorns as much to be out of humour or out of spirits at a necessary fatigue, as to want courage on the appearance of danger. The sorry wretch who can slink away from his comrades, or the dead-hearted looby who groans and grumbles at an unavoidable fatigue, deserves to be kicked out of the ranks, and left in a ditch; and ought so to be treated, were it not for disgracing a regiment, by strewing the road with stragglers. A soldier is destined to frequent hardships; but thence arises one of the glories of his character. Let him bear them like a man, and from his own breast he will have more than a recompence. He whose spirit will not bear him like a man through the common sufferings of a soldier, let him tarry at home and rock the cradle!”

While at Hull, Major C. (as commanding officer of the regiment) received a threatening letter, in the usual style of these epistles. An imaginary *claim* of the soldiers was the alledged motive; and the Major was threatened to be “ripped open,” and have his “brains blown out,” &c. An officer was with the Major when he opened and read the letter; but, with his usual composure, he put it in his pocket without speaking of its contents. The extreme danger to the writers of such letters putting them proportionally on their guard, rare indeed have been the instances in which the offender has been detected; but, the penetration of Major C. leading him to probable grounds of suspicion against four soldiers, as concerned in this business, he sent them from the parade, each under charge of a serjeant, to different quarters.

quarters. By separate examinations he soon came at the truth, finding their landlord was the writer of the letter, which was confirmed by a copy found upon him, as well as a seal which perfectly tallied with the wax by which the letter had been closed. Denial and doubt being equally impossible, and the offence not bailable, the offender was committed to prison, and the Major bound to prosecute. The examination of each soldier having commenced by reading to him the letter the Major had received, and with a promise of pardon on speaking the truth, all the soldiers were dismissed with a lecture on the escape they had had, and some wholesome advice; and, as Major C. persuaded himself the actual writer meant only to intimidate, and not to execute the threats he had used, he afterwards retained a counsel to instruct him how to fail in his proofs; which, under a humane Judge, who soon perceived the object of the prosecutor, and agreed in opinion with him on the merits of the case, was not found difficult.

In 1779 the regiment marched from Hull to Portsmouth, and encamped on South-Sea Common. While there, it witnessed the retreat of the British fleet into port before the combined fleets of France and Spain. Prior to this mortifying sight, and when the enemy lay off Plymouth, while the British fleet was to the westward, great apprehensions were entertained of an attempt, on the part of the enemy, to enter Spithead. On this occasion Major C. feeling the benefit of his naval knowledge, and having obtained

tained permission of General Monkton, reconnoitred the two entrances into Spithead; and, on the spur of the occasion, sketched a plan of defence, in which were combined military and naval operations. Both the Duke of Richmond, who has bestowed much attention on the subject of fortification, and that able engineer Colonel Debbieg, have borne their testimony to the merit of this plan, whatever it was; but we presume it was never communicated to any but those entrusted by the state with such documents.

In a letter to Major C. the Duke says, "I am much obliged to you for the very ingenious and noble plan you have sent me for the defence of Portsmouth; which, for the most part, as well as your reasoning on the subject, entirely coincide with my ideas. Portsmouth as well as Plymouth will be best defended by," &c.*

Early in the year 1780, Major C. was the original mover of a general meeting in the county of Nottingham for a redress of grievances; in which attempt he met with the greatest discouragement from a person of very high rank whom he consulted, with prognostics of defeat from the great influence of government, and the supposed want of public spirit; but, entertaining a better opinion of the people, and persevering with his usual steadiness, he found associates amongst the gentlemen of the county. A meeting was called, and very crowdedly attended;

* Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p. 38, where the reasons why the plan was not then acted on will appear.

and, with the exception only of a single negative, a petition to parliament and a committee of correspondence were voted. From this committee, at which presided the Duke of Portland, his brother Lord Edward Bentinck (then member for the county) was afterwards delegated to assist at the convention of deputies from the petitioning counties, cities, and towns, in attempting to obtain a reform in the representation of the people in parliament.*

The writer of these memoirs believes it was in the spring of the same year that Major C. after months of exertion, effected, with the assistance of Mr. Capel Loffit and Dr. John Jebb, the formation of the Society for *Constitutional Information*; and its first address to the public was of the Major's composition.

The society soon became numerous, and had amongst its members many distinguished men, viz. the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond; the Earls of Derby, Effingham, and Selkirk; Lords Kinnaird, Daer, and Sempill; Sir Cecil Wray, M. P. Sir James Norcliffe, Sir John Carter, Sir Watkin Lewes, M. P. Alderman Sawbridge, M. P. Alderman Hayley, M. P. Alderman Crosby, Sir William Plomer, Sir Barnard Turner, M. P. Mr. Horne Tooke, Alderman Townsend, M. P. Alderman Kirkman, M. P.

* If the writer does not forget, the Marquis of Titchfield, at a singular period, when parliamentary reformation was to be stigmatized as something nearly allied to high treason, and when the Duke had changed sides, took some pains, in a speech delivered in the House of Commons, to exculpate his noble father from the horrid imputation of having ever favoured such reformation.

James Martin, Esq. M. P. William Smith, Esq. M. P. Benjamin Vaughan, Esq. M. P. Sir J. Sinclair, M. P. R. B. Sheridan, Esq. M. P. the celebrated Sir William Jones, William Plumer, Esq. M. P. R. & Milns, Esq. M. P. William Middleton, Esq. M. P. Sir Joseph Mawbey, M. P. Jervoise C. Jervoise, Esq. M. P. Sir Watts Horton, Joshua Grigby, Esq. M. P. General Fitzpatrick, M. P. Philip Dehany, Esq. M. P. Thomas Day, Esq. author of *Sandford and Merton*, Dr. Kentish, Dr. Towers, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Melville, Mr. Sergeant Bond, Mr. Stratford Canning (father of George Canning, Esq. M. P.), Dr. John Jebb, Dr. Price, Dr. Brocklesby, Mr. Capel Lofft, Mr. Jackson Barwis, Mr. Batley, the Rev. Christopher Wyvill, and above two hundred other respectable gentlemen.

Major C. was also author of the Declaration of Rights which was published and distributed by the society. At the same time the Major was an active member of the Westminster Committee of Association, and likewise a delegate from the town of Nottingham in the aforesaid convention of deputies,* over which that virtuous patriot, Mr. Wyvill, of Yorkshire, presided with so much honour to himself.

It was likewise in the spring of the year 1780 that Major C. published "*The People's Barrier against undue Influence and Corruption.*"†

* In this appointment the celebrated Dr. Price and the Rev. George Walker were his colleagues.

† The great Lord Camden spoke of this work to the late Nathaniel

In July of that year the aforesaid society published a "Summary" of the treatise drawn up by that excellent patriot and very learned man, Mr. Capel Loft. Prefixed to the People's Barrier, we find an address to the Deputies of the petitioning Counties; and, in the nature of an appendix, another Address to the Freeholders of Middlesex, the Livery of London, and the Electors of Westminster.

The summer of this active year the Major spent in camp on Ranner-Heath, in Surry; in the autumn he was a second time invited to become a candidate for the town of Nottingham, where he would probably have then succeeded in his election, had it not been for one error in judgment of the patriotic party; and in the winter he received in marriage the hand of Miss Dashwood, the eldest daughter of Samuel Dashwood, of Well, in the county of Lincoln, Esq. This gentleman represented the elder branch of his family; the two younger branches being represented by the present Sir Henry Dashwood and the late Lord Le Despencer. Mrs. Cartwright's mother was sole heiress of James Bateman, Esq. of Well aforesaid (uncle of the present Lord Bateman), and is now a widow.

It was before the prorogation of parliament, in the summer of this year, that the Duke of Richmond brought in his bill for a reform in the representation, on the principles laid down in the Major's book,

Nathaniel Smith, Esq. M. P. and others of his friends, in terms of high encomium.

making

making very honorable mention of the author in his introductory speech.

The circumstance which brought his Grace and the Major acquainted is so much to the credit of both parties that it deserves to be known. In the Major's first publication on Reform, in the year 1777, he had expostulated with the then Opposition in terms of earnestness and of some freedom. He had said, that such of them as should not pledge themselves to immediate and unceasing exertions, for effecting a complete parliamentary reformation, ought to be considered as no better than factious demagogues contending for a share in the power and plunder of their country; and he had used other expressions of a similar nature. The Duke, who before the publication of this work had not been aware of the wide breaches in the constitution it pointed out, and who was struck by the Major's reasoning with the necessity of repairing them, was yet sensibly stung with severities of language which he thought unjustly pointed at him as well as others. Under these impressions he put the book in his pocket, introduced himself to the author, turned to the offensive passages, and read them with tokens of much resentment; after which he commented with severity on the injustice and uncharitableness of appearing to suspect the integrity of men, on a point to which their attention had not before been drawn. The Major pleaded the hypothetical nature of the language alluded to, the infinite importance of the subject,

subject, and the warmth of his own feelings. Discourse ensued; and, after a conversation of two or three hours, they parted well enough pleased with each other. Although it was not without taking time to make himself thoroughly master of the subject, that the Duke received conviction of the truth of the principles laid down by Major C.: it is well known, both by his bill above-mentioned, and by his celebrated letter to Colonel Sharman, that he early adopted those principles without reserve; and that his own unanswerable arguments in their support gained over to them thousands of converts.

In the year 1781, while the convention of deputies still sat in London, appeared the Major's letters to those deputies; the object of this small piece being to convey correct notions on the nature of *representation*, as the only true guide in reforming a representative body, which, through decay and corruption, had ceased to answer its constitutional ends.

The summer of this year was spent in camp, at Gosport; and, about the end of the year, the Major lost his father,

In 1782, continuing his exertions in the cause, and apparently considering what particular bodies of Englishmen were most likely to feel the force of his reasonings, and seriously to exert themselves for relief, he published "Give us our Rights; or a Letter to the present Electors of Middlesex and the Metropolis, shewing, &c." In August, of the same year, the Major again took a leading part in promoting

moting a county-meeting in Nottinghamshire, to petition for a reform in the representation of the people in parliament; and, as it was the request of the gentlemen signing the requisition, that the high sheriff would consult the most convenient season for that purpose, he called a meeting for the 28th of October, when a petition was agreed on.

It was in this year also, the Major, as appears by the dates, gave a new edition of the "Declaration of Rights, without which no Englishman can be a free Man, nor the English Nation a free People;" to which he now added a forcible appeal to the understandings of his countrymen, under this title, "For the great constitutional *Right* and *Duty*, as well as the *Wisdom* and the *Necessity*, of being ARMED for defence of the *Peace*, the *Laws*, and the *Liberties*, of our Country, see the following Authorities and Arguments." This piece was not only printed and widely circulated, in a plain dress, by the Society for Constitutional Information, but was likewise published in an elegant style for being framed and glazed as an ornamental piece of furniture; the declaration having a broad margin or border enriched with emblems and allegories, verses and quotations, expressive of the contrast between liberty and slavery, and illustrative of the doctrines of the Declaration—A declaration, of which it was said by the immortal Sir William Jones (a member of the society), that "it ought to be written in letters of gold:" and a declaration over which the equally-immortal Chatham, with tokens of deep emotion, emphatically

emphatically pronounced these words: "Aye, this is very right."*

Amongst the other ornaments of this copper-plate print, a bust of the Duke of Richmond is most conspicuous, and, indeed, it is made the principal figure; and there are likewise medallions of Jebb, Northcote, Lofft, Sharp, and Cartwright, as those by whom the doctrines of the Declaration had been most successfully inculcated.

With the commencement of the year 1783, Major C. engaged in agriculture; his elder brother, who had no relish for such an occupation, having then transferred to him the farm in Nottinghamshire, and all other agricultural concerns of his late father, which he had kept in his own hands for one year.

In 1784 the Major defended the virtuous cause of political reform, in which he had so long laboured, against the insidious, but witty, attack of the celebrated Soame Jennings, in a pamphlet entitled (in allusion to a well-known work of that gentleman's) "Internal Evidence; or an Inquiry how far Truth and the Christian Religion have been consulted by the Author of *Thoughts on a Parliamentary Reform*."

In March 1785, Major C. was once more principally instrumental in assembling the county of Nottingham in the great cause next his heart. On that

* The Declaration was put into his hands by the late General Oglethorpe, who, upon a visit to Mr. Granville Sharp, reported the fact to Major C.; but the writer of these memoirs believes it was the first edition of the Declaration that was shewn to Lord Chatham.

occasion he published, in a provincial newspaper and in hand bills, an address under the title of "A Nottinghamshire Farmer to his Brother Freeholders; or a Call to the County Meeting to be holden at Newark, to consider the Propriety of petitioning the House of Commons to reform the present unconstitutional Representation of the People in that House, and to shorten the Duration of Parliaments."

Whether from this period the Major relaxed from his accustomed labours, in consequence of a delusive prosperity having indisposed the nation to exertion for recovering its just liberties, or whether he remained silent from a reliance on the integrity of Mr. Pitt, and a belief that that minister would embrace a convenient opportunity of fulfilling his engagements to the public on the subject of a parliamentary reformation, it is not for the writer of these memoirs to determine. He can only say, that, between the years 1785 and 1792, he did not collect any productions of the Major's pen, nor does he recollect any thing published by him within that period; not but that a mind so active, and so devoted to the cause of reform, must probably have produced, in some form or other, both within that period and others, many things on the subject, which have not appeared with his name, or which might not be intended for publication.

In the year 1788, the Major, in conjunction with other friends, embarked in an undertaking in manufacture on a considerable scale; expecting it would prove to themselves a beneficial speculation, but knowing

knowing that it must, at all events, benefit their country in its favourite staple of wool. A large and beautiful building was soon erected at Clarendon, near Retford, in the county of Nottingham, and, being covered in on the approach of winter, a holiday was given on the 5th of November, when, in commemoration of an event which had taken place exactly *one hundred years* before, an event dear to the recollection of every true Englishman, a hundred of King William's shillings were given to the workmen to regale themselves, and the building was called *The Revolution Mill*.

In this year also Major C. having previously sold his estate at Darlton, in the county of Nottingham, purchased an estate in Lincolnshire, of which the township and manor of Brothertoft is the principal part. Here he shortly after fixed his residence, improving the estate, cultivating it with judgment, in a high-spirited and expensive manner, and embellishing this retirement with taste, but in a style of simplicity adapted to the title he gave it of *Brothertoft Farm*; and here, dividing his time between the plough and the pen, he follows the occupation of a Cincinnatus and a Washington; and, if he has not had the good fortune of those illustrious men of serving his country in high military commands, he has at least shewn himself an emulator of their virtues, by sacrificing his ambition at the shrine of his country, and boldly defending her dearest interests.

The culture of our indigenous plant, *isatis* or *woad*, with the juice of which, it is said, the ancient

Brytons

Britons stained their bodies, and which is an article much used by modern dyers, is at Brothertoft conducted on a large scale.

The woad is daily ground by means of a mill requiring the power of eight horses, and the room in which the grinding-wheels act upon the plant is above forty feet square, forming the centre only of a building nearly two hundred feet long and two stories high. In front and rear of the wings are erected lofty ranges, containing some thousand wooden grates, with galleries between them, on which the woad, after ground and made into balls, is dried for preservation. On one side of this singular group, which at a distance resembles a great castle, and forming one front with the great building above-mentioned, is another building containing tenements for thirty or more families of the woad-labourers and the agent who superintends them, a school, and other conveniences; the whole together making a striking appearance, and adorning this level country. It refreshes the mind of the traveller by gratifying his eye with a pleasing picture, and his mind with ideas of the earth's bounty, and of the benefits of human industry well directed. The establishment is an unique, bearing many marks of invention, and the works in general being on a construction much superior to any which are applied to the same purposes either in this or any other country.

In 1789 the Major was invited, by a decided majority of the burgesses of Retford, to represent them in parliament, whereupon he declared himself a candidate
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didate in a handbill expressive of his political principles. It will not be thought surprising that a little intercourse with the electors of a petty borough should have determined this gentleman to take his leave of them again, which he not long afterwards did, and Mr. William Petrie on the same interest was elected in 1790.

We must now attend the Major to dinner on a particular occasion, because this dinner had a considerable influence on some subsequent events concerning him. On the 14th of July 1791, he met the Friends of Freedom at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in London, to celebrate the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille; and, within a month afterwards, he received a letter from his brother, who had a familiar acquaintance with the Duke of Newcastle, lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, to inform him, by desire, that his Grace "could not consistently with his political principles promote him to the vacant lieutenant-colonelcy" of the militia; and it was added, "this being the case, I presume you will resign immediately." In quoting these words in the "Letter to the Duke of Newcastle," which the Major soon after published, he says, "Resign! No, my good brother, nothing like it. It is more agreeable to me to make knaves wince under my correction, than laugh at my pettish folly." In this letter to his Grace, which details a long series of injuries, with a view, no doubt, of driving him out of the regiment, the Major, with a dignity becoming his own character, and with the spirit of an Englishman

arraigns the lord-lieutenant at the bar of the public, for a conduct "not only illiberal, but illegal; not only oppressive, but dishonourable and unconstitutional." "For aught that I know," says he, "this accusation may be metamorphosed into a breach of privilege; and I, the accuser, may be called before the bar of that right honourable House of which you are a member, to answer to that complaint. Should it so happen, my defence, my Lord, would still be your crimination; and at that bar I would still assert, that your conduct has been illiberal, illegal, oppressive, dishonourable, and unconstitutional."

The Major did not, it seems, conceive he had any thing to fear from the power of the House on that occasion. Neither had he been more influenced by a piece of intelligence brought him, while preparing for the press the letter it was known he had written, although it seemed intended to divert him from his purpose of making it public: by an intimate acquaintance of the Duke's he had been told, and in the way of a friendly caution, that his Grace not long before had challenged a gentleman of the bar, who took some public liberties with his name.

But, to return to the celebration of the downfall of the Bastile, and what followed upon it:—the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire not only refused to Major C. the lieutenant-colonelcy, which, after three or four promotions over his head, at the instance of the Colonel, and then unknown to the Major, he had promised him, but, in the month of September of that year, he commissioned another officer as Major, there-

by dismissing him, as his Grace thought, from the regiment; and without even the civility of sending him a message to inform him of the event.* The transaction, however, being grossly illegal, Major C. paid no regard to it; but, exposing the indecency and the folly of the proceeding, he declared he should “appear in his post when the regiment next assembled.” Care was however taken not to call out the regiment at all in the year 1792, in which the Major’s Letter was published; and at an annual meeting of the Deputy-Lieutenants, assembled on the 23d of October, the mighty object of removing Major Cartwright from the militia, as fourteen years of ill-treatment had not provoked him to resign, was at last accomplished. Under the *supposed* authority of a late act of parliament, he was superseded; and the Deputy-Lieutenants “Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be given to John Cartwright, Esq. for his services as Major in the Nottinghamshire regiment of militia.”

Notwithstanding this decency of conduct in the meeting, few, perhaps, will be so sceptical as to doubt, but that he was discharged as a *punishment* for publicly rejoicing, that twenty-five millions of human beings had broken their chains and asserted their freedom; and it must also be recollected, that the first ineffectual attempt at inflicting this *punishment* took place so early as September 1791.

Some persons, from the internal evidence alone of

* Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p. 73.

Major C.'s Letter to the Duke of N——, have thought, that to discharge from the national militia such a man, to gratify either such a Duke or his masters, was an act to which it could not have been easy for English gentlemen to have stooped; especially, after the Major had said to this Duke, "either the labour of reading the law, for instructions how to proceed, was too great an effort; or you had a mind to shew the *Deputy-Lieutenants with how much contempt you could treat them.*"*—“Are we to understand, that you equally despised both *the law and the Deputy-Lieutenants?*† But be not, my good Lord Duke, discouraged; rally your scattered troops; *assemble your mercenaries*; call a council of war; and gallantly open a new campaign. Your future ability and prowess may wipe away the past disgrace; and your sage brows may yet be decorated with the laurel of victory.‡”

“Is it, then, the honourable tenure upon which every gentleman is to hold his commission in *your* militia, that he presumes not to rejoice but when you rejoice, nor to weep but when you weep? Is he neither to express his satisfaction when other nations became free, nor to open his lips in favour of the liberties of his own country? But, at all events, I conclude that he must make no attempt to remove abuses in the representation of Great Britain, be they ever so scandalous, or productive of ever so much injury to the rights, the interests, and the morals of the people;

* Page 59. † P. 69. ‡ P. 70.

so long as your Grace remains a borough-holder, and of course one of those ***** who despoil the Commons of that representation in parliament which belongs to them *alone*? These are serious questions, which my brother-officers, and those of the whole English militia, will do well to consider, as becomes their importance. It becomes them, as well as myself, to spurn at the knavery and insolence of office, employed to root out from the militia all independency of mind. It becomes every man of us to express his indignation whenever treated as the property of a court-dependent, possessing not sufficient virtue to be himself the friend of either civil or religious freedom; nor wisdom enough to shut up and conceal that want of virtue within the dark and narrow cell of his own bosom."

By the intimate friends of Major C. it is well known, that, although he acquiesced in the discharge of 1792, for the sake of his own repose, yet he laughed at it as *illegal*. It is only at the end of every five years, that, under the act of 26 Geo. III. c. 107, a militia-officer *may be discharged*. From the 26th of his Majesty, or 1786, the *only* legal periods of discharge are, of course, the years 1791, 1796, 1801, and so on. Hence it should seem only necessary to be able to count *five* to discover that a discharge in 1792 was not according to law.

In the spring of the year 1792, as appears from papers produced on the trial of Mr. Horne Tooke, Major C. was a regular attendant at the Society for Constitutional Information, and frequently in the chair;

chair; and, by consulting that trial, it will also be found, that a newly-founded patriotic society about that time sprang up in Southwark, which, in the declaration of its principles, made use of these expressions, "equal active citizenship," and "representative government." Major Cartwright thinking these expressions injudicious, visited the society in question at one of its most numerous meetings, where he was received with much welcome, and allowed to join in its proceedings. Nor was that all; for, in a speech calculated at once to inspire patriotism, and to direct its exertions in the line of the constitution, and moving the society to come to an explicit resolution, declaratory of its attachment to a government of king, lords, and commons, the speaker was much applauded, and his motion was unanimously adopted.

Hence it may be seen, that, although the energetic reasoning and the uncommon eloquence of Paine (who is an enthusiast, in season and out of season, for governments simply representative) had influenced these patriots to adopt in some degree his language, his doctrine in that particular had not sunk into their hearts, and it was easy for judicious men to convince them, that, under the circumstances of their own country, it was right to adhere to a constitution, which, if enjoyed in its purity, would confer upon the people the solid blessings of representation, although it admitted of particular privileges being possessed by a few. The Major, with the same views, visited two or three other new societies, and in each

instance with the same success: nor did he desist until he had obtained deputations from all of them, and from the parent-society, of which he himself had been the founder, to meet together and vote, as the joint act of the whole, the same declaration. Here, then, will not the dispassionate eye of reason discern the true character of these societies? and well would it be, for the peace and happiness of our country, were the *aristocracy* as ready as the *democracy* to listen to the voice of this friend to the English constitution! Many have been his exhortations to the former, not to become a bar to a reform in our representation, lest the people, discovering that either privilege must be annihilated, or liberty must perish, become universally *Painites*. Should that day ever arrive, it is not all the machinery of power that can keep the millions in subjection to a few lords in ermine. On the formation of the *Society of the Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform*, which also happened in 1792, Major C. became a member; and that he was not either inactive or lukewarm we may safely conclude.*

We find, from the Major's writings, that in 1793, when the ministerial plan for raising volunteer corps of selected persons was proposed in the district where he resides, that he moved its rejection, and to substitute in its place one more constitutional, by inviting every tax-paying householder to arm, and by appointing a committee, consisting of the magistrates and

* See *Commonwealth in Danger*, p. 137.

other gentlemen, to consult the law of the land for instructions how to organize and regulate such a force. In the same year he also published his "Letter to a Friend at Boston," vindicating the friends of parliamentary reformation, and calling on the associators under the banner of Mr. Reeves, who professed to support a government of king, lords, and commons, to act consistently with their professions, and containing, likewise, arguments against rushing into the present war.

About the time of the state-trials, in 1794, he began to write "The Commonwealth in Danger," which was published in 1795. Besides a controversy of some length with the versatile author of "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*," this work takes an instructive view of the state of the nation, and suggests important considerations respecting the means of repelling invasion.

It cannot be supposed, that, when the whole nation was thrown into a state of agitation by the bills of Lord Grenville and Mr. Pitt, for altering the criminal law of England respecting treason and sedition, he, who is the subject of these memoirs, should have been unmoved. The truth is, he warmly opposed, in a meeting at Boston, an address to the throne, in which an implied approbation was given to those bills; and he likewise, in November 1795, wrote and published a Letter to the High Sheriff of the county of Lincoln on the subject, alleging his inability from lameness to attend a county-meeting for addressing his Majesty, and requesting his written sentiments

sentiments might be read ; which request, however, was not complied with.* As containing the substance of his arguments against the two bills, he also included a part of his letter to the Sheriff, a copy of an argumentative petition of some length, which in his own name he had transmitted to the House of Commons, conjuring them not to pass such laws.† This petition was presented by Mr. Fox, who on that occasion observed, that “ he had not the honour of having the political support of this gentleman ; on the contrary, he had manifested the most ardent zeal in opposition to his measures when he had been in office, and had been equally sincere and strenuous in supporting the present administration, so long as he conceived their measures directed to the advancement of public happiness ; but the instant Mr. Pitt abandoned the principles which had raised him to popularity and power, Major Cartwright had withdrawn his confidence and support ; but, laying aside all partial consideration, he was a man whom all parties respected. He was one whose enlightened mind, and profound constitutional knowledge, placed him in the highest rank of public character, and whose purity of principle and consistency of conduct through life commanded the most respectful attention to his opinions.” In this petition, Major Cartwright displayed the same magnanimity and patriotism which had distinguished his conduct upon all occasions where the interests of his country were concerned.

* See p. 10 of the Appendix to this Letter.

† Letter, p. 23.

In the month of May 1796, Major C. received, from a body of electors of the borough of Boston, an offer of a seat in parliament, which of course they professed to be both willing and able to bestow upon him; but he did not make his appearance as a candidate. In the same year, he published his "Constitutional Defence of England, Internal and External." The first part of which, relating to *internal* defence, is "a speech intended to have been spoken to the high sheriff and freeholders of the county of Lincoln, on the 6th of May 1796, at a meeting to consider of proper persons to represent the county in parliament." The second part is in the form of a letter, condemning the modes of arming adopted by ministers, as unconstitutional, and recommending a revival of the *posse comitatus*; which he enforces with much general reasoning, and some reference to statutes and law-books.

The character of the speech may be collected from a single sentence of it. "As an individual freeholder, I came here perfectly disengaged, to seek constitutional representatives or none. I have no fox-hunting vote to bestow on any one; neither have I a vote for party, nor for connexion; no, nor even for sacred friendship. To my friend I will give my purse, my hand, my heart; but I will not give him that which is not mine. My vote I hold in trust; my vote belongs to my country, and my country alone shall have it!"—The whole composition breathes the same spirit, and its references to the French revolution, and to the Roman history after the loss of liberty,

deserve to be read with particular attention by every nobleman and gentleman of England.

In 1797, the Major, ever vigilant in the cause of reform, had been active in his neighbourhood in promoting a fresh petition to parliament for that object; when the language of certain counter-petitioners appearing to him extremely unconstitutional, it gave rise to an "Appeal on the Subject of the English Constitution."

The several *Reviews* have rendered it unnecessary for the writer of these memoirs to characterize this little work; they speak of it as follows:

MONTHLY REVIEW.—"The pamphlet is distinguished for moderation and sound constitutional doctrine."

CRITICAL REVIEW.—"On the abstract question, in which our author is at issue with the anti-petitioners, we are decidedly of opinion, that law, history, and right reason, are entirely on his side."

ANALYTICAL REVIEW.—"The day of redemption approaches, and, we believe, with no tardy step. In the mean time Mr. Cartwright's efforts are not lost. He is informing the mind of that public, without which nothing can be accomplished, and which must be enlightened before it can be used to advantage. The times are awful and propitious. We must be made perfect through suffering; but he is the best friend of his species, whose efforts are exerted to weaken the point or lessen the amount of that suffering. We wish every neighbourhood had a Cartwright, and then we should not fear a storm. We should then hope to see the representation of the people corrected by peaceful and constitutional measures. This is our *first wish* for our country: may the abuses of the constitution be corrected, and her peace be eternal."

BRITISH CRITIC.—"Major C. is an enthusiast (we hope an honest one) in the cause of general, if not universal, suffrage.
But,

But, while he proposes only the former, his arguments unfortunately go the whole length of the latter; for, if no man is free but he who has a vote in the choice of a representative in parliament, his plan * undoubtedly excludes, from his beloved *civil liberty*, a very numerous part of the nation, and reduces them to what he calls *legal protection*; which, the Major tells us, may be equally well enjoyed under the most arbitrary government, &c.†

“ In his plan of arming householders throughout the kingdom, for the defence of their property and the constitution, we cordially agree, and the Major must rejoice with us in the happy accomplishment of his wishes, &c. ‡

“ The rest of this tract consists of an exposition of the writer's general sentiments on political or civil liberty, for which his great authority, his Magnus Apollo, is the Earl of Abingdon! &c.

“ But we would recommend to the writer to re-consider those principles, § (or, as we should call them, prejudices),” &c.

The year 1798 was scarcely ushered in, when Major Cartwright, in conjunction with half a dozen honest neighbours, once more advertised for a public meeting, with a view of obtaining another petition for reform; and certain propositions, intended to be moved as the grounds of such petition, were circulated with the summons. The extraordinary inter-

* A plan of reform, which, as far as it goes, is founded on just principles, and which, at the same time, falls far short of the author's known ideas of rectitude, is no ill evidence of moderation.

† Among the abtruser questions in politics, perhaps, few distinctions are more important than that which is here so imperfectly quoted from the author, between *legal protection* and *political liberty*.

‡ “ Accomplishment!” By poetical figure, an acorn may be called an oak.

§ The Major, it seems, has not only *re-considered* them, but *re-published* them without alteration, and with much additional matter in their support.

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ference of a magistrate, previous to the intended meeting, caused the invitation to be withdrawn by the Major and his friends, in order "to defeat the evil designs of such as might meditate the raising of a disturbance, with a view of charging it upon the friends of reform;"* but the circumstance of this interference gave rise to the publication of a new edition of the "Appeal," with very large additions.

The Major appears to have begun the additions so early as the month of March 1798, although the last hand, as it should seem by dates in the work, was not put to it for twelve months. The author's subject being the "English Constitution," he has not confined himself to the local violations of it that first called forth his pen, but has taken an extensive view of the injuries it has sustained, the corruptions it has undergone, and the abuses to which it is every day exposed. He has, also, at least to the mind of the writer of these memoirs, placed it in a new point of view, as "a two-fold and admirable system of civil and military polity most happily combined; whereby these two characters, like the faculties of intellectual ability and bodily force in man, are inseparably interwoven, and constitute a complete state or free government."† Free, indeed, and glorious would it be, if its principles, as clearly established by his pen, were the rule of practical government!

Whether we follow him in his judicious corrections of that great man, Sir William Blackstone; or,

* Page 64.

† Preface.

in his manly vindication of the rights of juries; or, in his acute observations on the liberty of the press; or, in his masterly assertion of the sovereignty of the people; or, in his dispassionate observations on the proposed union with Ireland; or, in his demonstration of the incompetence of parliament to change the constitution; or, in his refutation of long-established, but erroneous maxims in the art of war, and his luminous revival of that military system which was "the noblest legacy of an English king of kings; the greatest that ever bore earthly rule;"* we shall at least have reason to say that he deserves the thanks of his country.

To those who may desire to know more of the *private* history of Major Cartwright than has appeared in these pages, let it be observed, that the little incidents of retired life, unless mixed up with fiction, and fashioned into a tale by the hand of the novelist, will seldom gratify expectation. The writer of these memoirs has not been solicitous to collect private anecdotes of his friend, thinking a few that are characteristic will be sufficient for publication; for such only can be of general concern.

That an Englishman who, prior to hostilities with America, had vindicated her right to independence, and advised an admission and declaration of it by parliament, should enjoy the particular regard and esteem of Americans, who personally knew him, is most natural. There were a few at that time in

London with whom he became intimate, and one of these was a man of good connexions in his own country. The Major calling rather late one evening upon this friend, a person booted and spurred retired just as he entered the room. The American gentleman, after a little conversation, appearing absorbed in thought, the Major, judging his visit unreasonable, was taking his leave. His friend stopped him, and attempted to assume his accustomed ease; but soon again fell into silence and absence. The Major took his hat; and his friend again in earnestness urged his stay; but other relapses and tokens of a labouring mind occurring, the visitor was forcing himself away; but his friend stepped between him and the door, and held out his hand as forbidding a retreat. After walking a few seconds in silence and apparent agitation, he turned short to the Major and said, "I am going to shew the confidence I repose in you. France has signed a treaty of alliance with my country; the man you saw had just brought me the express from —, at Paris; and, as it would be some hours after that express came away before the English ambassador would be in possession of the fact, ministers here will probably be ignorant of the event all to-morrow." He then gave an outline of the treaty, of which the certainty of an early French war was the most striking feature.

Here then was such an opportunity for a 'Change-Alley speculation, or other means of safely turning the intelligence to a gambling account, as might have

have made the fortune of a less scrupulous man; but he, to whom it was communicated, made no such attempt, thinking that all gaming with an ignorant adversary, and with a certainty of winning, was no better than robbery; as well as that no man ought to play for a greater stake than, in the event of losing, he was able to pay: and, when this temptation was thrown in his way, the Major had no other certain income than his half-pay as a naval lieutenant. Thus the important intelligence of his friend had no other effect upon his mind, than to fill it with indignation at the mass of vice and folly which then poisoned the counsels of the state, and were profusely sowing the seeds of calamity to his country.

From another anecdote, which has also relation to *play*, the fashionable reader will learn with surprise, that, although Major C. has been married nearly twenty years, he has never yet possessed such a piece of furniture as a card table; nor were cards ever admitted into his house, except for the amusement of aged visitors, or of a sick person requiring such an indulgence. His rejection of cards is not accompanied with any thing cynical, but from seeing and knowing the ill effects of habit. He was particularly pleased with a passage in a sermon of his friend George Walker, observing, that "cards were invented for the amusement of a royal idiot, and they bid fair to make idiots of us all." He was also much diverted with an insane nobleman he once sat down with to cards, in company with the relation who had the care of him. My lord played very

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gravely until *tired*, which happening to be in the middle of a deal, he threw down his cards and took his walk; and this the Major frequently calls the most rational game at cards he ever played. But the great cause of his distaste to play was what happened to him early in life. He had at one time, as he often relates, so far given the reins to those passions which make men gamesters, that for six weeks he scarcely ever quitted the card-table, playing with the keenest relish from early morn till late at eve, and but scantily allowing himself the refreshments of food and sleep; and, to add to the fascination, he had played with success at the end of this period. He reflected on this madness, and on practices he had detected in some of the players; and he determined on a solitary serious walk. This walk he took on the summit of Portsdown-Hill, which overlooks Portsmouth and the sea, the destined theatre, as he then thought, of his future life. The nature of his self-interrogation, while contemplating the magnificent prospect before him, and the course of his thoughts, will be collected, when, to use his own expression, it is observed that, at this moment, "the tide turned, and ever after set in a contrary direction."

The institution of a Society to improve Naval Architecture recalls to mind a suggestion thrown out thirty years ago by Mr. Cartwright, then a midshipman, that, under due encouragement to ingenious men, in the ornamenting our ships of war, we might in due time expect to see arise, in this country, a

nautic order of architecture. "It will readily be admitted," said he, "that arms alone, without arts, could never have raised the Greeks or Romans to that authority they acquired in the world," &c. And, speaking of naval sculpture, he observed, "In all the productions of genius in this class, there is a certain style and character transfused through the whole, which give them a peculiar grace, beauty, and propriety, as embellishments of moveable fabrics on a liquid element, and such as demonstrate that a nautic order of architecture is reducible to a system of general rules and principles, while its variety must be infinite, and its proportions various without imperfection." See a letter signed *INSULARIS*, in the *St. James's Chronicle*, in April 1769. — The Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, appears to have taken the hint; for very soon afterwards a premium was offered for the best specimen of a nautic order; but the few candidates who appeared did not understand the society's intention: the specimens produced were not of the nature they sought, being of matters appertaining to the mere ship-carpenter instead of the draughtsman and sculptor.

The Major has no children, except, as he phrases it, "a borrowed one," a niece whom he has brought up from an infant, and with whom he is not likely to part, until she may form a nearer connexion. The extent and the nature of his friendships have been delicately touched by his own hand. — "What! must you assail me!" says he to the Duke of N. page 25, "even in my friend! Must his integrity

be corrupted! must his honour be stained! and a consciousness of baseness attend him to the grave, rather than that I should not receive a mortification. Fie! fie!—Had you succeeded there, you had conquered me indeed; you had effectually driven me from the corps; it had been a stab I could not have resisted. —Where is the man capable of beholding one, whom once he honoured, fallen from the dignity of virtue and the nobility of friendship!—My nerves had been unequal to the task! But, thank God, the friendships of my life have ever been with men of principle. The circle, indeed, is small; but it is a circle, within which I entertain no apprehension of ever being deserted or betrayed.”—As a son, there is none now to speak of him; as a husband, a brother, an uncle, a master, a landlord, and a neighbour, if the writer of these memoirs may judge, the sentiments entertained of him are such as much contribute to his happiness.

It is a favourite artifice of some men to represent the noble spirits who struggle against oppression and tyranny as tyrants in their own families, and of disagreeable qualities in the private circles of society. How well such a representation would be founded in the present case, let the reader judge from the following words received by the writer in answer to a letter of inquiry, which, amongst others, he sent to a very respectable clergyman in Nottinghamshire, so circumstanced as to be able to give the fullest information from his own knowledge: “Major C.’s private life is not only free from vice, but full of virtue. He

was exemplary in his duties as a son, and he is a most tender and affectionate husband, a generous and indulgent master, and the kindest brother that was ever born into the world, perhaps, since the illustrious Roman, *notus in fratres animi paterni*. The misfortunes of his excellent family, which excite the unfeigned pity of all who know them, have unhappily called for all the virtue, in the last of those characters, of the modern *Proculus*; and his sisters declare, with tears of gratitude and love, that he has been to them a FATHER. His honour and honesty are unimpeachable;—they are confessed to be unspotted, even by his most furious *political* enemies; for it is impossible he can have any other; and, in some late family difficulties, with which the world has nothing to do, have shewn themselves in such purity as to excite the admiration of all to whom the facts were known. His manners in society are polite and easy. He is a perfectly well-bred gentleman. He never gives the slightest offence by introducing his political opinions, nor by his manner of arguing upon them when introduced by others. He discusses them with such philosophical quiet and such a mild and gentle spirit, that a stranger is astonished to have been conversing with so obnoxious a character. In short, I know no defect in this man's heart; and, were you to go from door to door through this whole county to collect opinions about him, the worst that you could hear would be, that he maintains a set of what perhaps they might call *new-fangled* notions about representation, and that he main-

fains them pertinaciously." To which this most worthy correspondent adds, "My communication, however short, may perhaps be valuable for the being extracted from the most respectable part of our county, who have known the Major from his childhood, and though many of them differ from him in political opinion."

In another letter with which the writer has been favoured, a gentleman who has invariably shewn that he possesses the nicest feelings with the highest sense of honour, and who is very particularly acquainted with the circumstances which occasioned the spirited remonstrance to the Duke of Newcastle, says he is sure that all facts stated therein are accurate; and, after noticing the great talents of the remonstrator, displayed early in his profession, and testified by his great commanders—his skill as an engineer and a mechanic—sums up his character in saying, "that he is an excellent writer, voluminous publications may be brought to witness; but I think there is no occasion to refer to more than his late luminous "APPEAL," to manifest him a temperate, learned, and eloquent politician. Here is a variety of talents hardly to be met with in one man: and yet, such is the perverseness of this age, that a true appreciation of his worth must be left to a few friends and a future age."

If any reader should be disposed to say, that these memoirs have more the air of eulogy than of faithful delineation of character, and ask, where are the shades, the foibles, the failings, the vices, to which

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every son of Adam and of Eve is liable in a greater or a less degree; the writer can give no other answer, than that he knows no more of them than the great variety of persons to whom he has applied for information, and many of whom, from long acquaintance, and even intimacy, could not have been ignorant of them, if they existed; whence he must conclude, that if Major Cartwright be not one of the best of men, and an ornament and an honour to his country and his species, he must be one of the most consummate, and the most successful hypocrites upon earth. R.

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

WILLIAM Robert Fitzgerald is the second of his illustrious family who has inherited a dukedom; his father, not only the most ancient earl, but the most ancient peer of Ireland, was, immediately after the accession of his present Majesty to the throne, promoted, from being Earl of Kildare, to be Marquis of Kildare and Duke of Leinster. The Duke of Leinster is also Viscount Taplow of Great Britain, and as such has taken his seat in the British House of Peers.

His Grace is not less nobly descended in the maternal line:—his mother, the dowager-duchess of Leinster, is sister to the present and daughter of the late Duke of Richmond, and is thus allied as well to the King of Sardinia as to the two rival relatives who

had so long contended for the imperial crown of Great Britain—those of Brunswick and Stuart.

The Duke of Leinster received the first part of his education at Eton-School; whence he went to the university of Cambridge, and, after taking a degree, visited most of the polite courts of Europe, where the rank of Marquis of Kildare procured him not more attention and respect than his amiable qualities peculiarly commanded.

His Lordship, charmed with the manners, the climate, and the fine arts (of which he is not only an admirer, but a great patron) of Italy, spent most of those years devoted to making the grand tour in that delightful country. He was upon his travels when the present Marquis Townshend was appointed Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, who, in the year 1768, gave the royal assent to the Octennial Bill, which then changed the duration of the Irish parliament from being perpetual to the period of eight years. The perpetual parliament was then dissolved, and a general election immediately followed; at which the freemen and freeholders of the city of Dublin nominated the Marquis of Kildare, who was then in Italy, and just entered into the twenty-second year of his age, a candidate to represent them.

This ancient family felt themselves much flattered by the kind partiality manifested in this instance by the citizens of Dublin towards their eldest son. They accepted the invitation; the Marquis was declared a candidate, and a canvas upon the part of his Lordship immediately commenced.

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The contest which took place at this election was greater than any which has since occurred on a similar occasion. One candidate * was almost unanimously returned; but the Marquis of Kildare was opposed by John La Touche, Esq. whose father was then living, and was the richest and most respectable banker in Ireland. The firm of his house is yet continued by his sons (one of whom is John), and continues to be marked with the same liberality and integrity which has distinguished it for nearly a century, and has given it the character of being, perhaps, the first private banking-house in the empire.

The Marquis being abroad, a gentleman of much celebrity, and at that time well known all over Europe, (the late John St. Leger, Esq.) became *locum tenens* for his Lordship, in whose favour the election ultimately terminated after a long contest, which is stated to have cost each of those two candidates above twenty thousand pounds, while Dr. Lucas was returned free of expence.

This parliament, the first assembled after the passing the Octennial Bill, continued almost the full period of its limitation, being called together in the year 1768, and not dissolved until the year 1776; at which time the death of the late Duke of Leinster prevented the Marquis from again becoming a can-

* The late Doctor Lucas, an Irish physician of great eminence, a man not less celebrated for his great abilities than his genuine patriotism; and to whose memory the citizens of Dublin have erected a finely sculptured pedestrian marble statue in the Royal Exchange of that city.

didate for the Irish metropolis, as he had then succeeded his father in his title and estates.

During the American war, a descent of the combined enemy upon Ireland was not only meditated, but seriously apprehended, and among the numerous corps which formed the volunteer armies of Ireland, a regiment was embodied at Dublin, in the year 1778, composed of the most respectable merchants and traders of that city, called the *Dublin Volunteers*, who unanimously elected the Duke of Leinster for their colonel.

The spirit of the Irish nation rapidly augmented this army of the people; and, upon the 4th of November 1779, his Grace acted in the capacity of reviewing-general of all the corps of Dublin and the neighbouring counties.

There were some men at this time in the Duke of Leinster's regiment, whose patriotism indicated a strong tendency to degenerate into sedition: the spirit by which they were actuated spread itself among other corps; his Grace warmly reprobated, in the House of Peers, their symptoms of disaffection, and recommended in their room a steady perseverance, tempered with moderation, in the attainment of those great constitutional measures which the Irish volunteer army were then seeking, and afterwards obtained in the year 1782. This moderate conduct adopted by the Duke much offended some of the turbulent spirits in his Grace's regiment; they immediately seceded, and formed a small corps, which they called the *Independent Dublin Volunteers*.

From

From this period the popularity of the Duke of Leinster continued to abate, and his Grace no longer held the distinguished character of reviewing-general of the Irish volunteer army; that honour was conferred upon the Earl of Charlemont, who continued in the undisturbed enjoyment of that rank as long as the volunteers remained embodied.

The Duke of Leinster frequently delivered his sentiments in the Irish House of Lords, and, as a public speaker, acquitted himself with a very fair degree of credit: his politics, however, have not been marked with that consistent firmness, which in most cases is necessary to insure the appellation of a steady patriot; though, in reality, few men are better disposed to promote the real interests of their country.

His Grace's moderation and complacency, in his public capacity, are as conspicuous as his amiable and endearing disposition in private life. His having accepted, at different times, certain offices under the crown, when he happened to co-operate with administration, has in many instances shaken that public confidence which otherwise would have invariably attached to him.

Some few years since, his Grace held the office of Master of the Rolls in Ireland; and in the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam he accepted the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper.

When the important question of the Regency was agitated in 1789, the Duke of Leinster supported the measure of appointing the Prince of Wales regent, without any restriction, and, with Earl Charlemont, constituted

constituted the deputation from the Irish House of Lords to wait upon his Royal Highness with their address for that purpose.

His Grace married the daughter of the late Lord St. George, by whom he has several children. His eldest daughter, Lady Mary Fitzgerald, married General Sir Robert Ross. His eldest son, Augustus Frederick (Marquis of Kildare), to whom his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales stood sponsor, was born 21st August, 1791.

His elder brother, Lord Charles Fitzgerald, is an admiral. His second brother, Lord Henry, was the colleague of Mr. Grattan, in the representation of the city of Dublin, to which they were both elected free of expence, in opposition to two aldermen of that city, who were supported by the patronage of government. His third brother, Lord Robert, was formerly secretary to the Duke of Dorset, at the court of Versailles, and afterwards *chargé des affaires* in France; and is now ambassador at Copenhagen, from the court of St. James's. His younger brother, the late Lord Edward Fitzgerald, terminated his political career, during the late unhappy rebellion in the sister-kingdom, in a manner too melancholy to dwell upon.

Leinster-House, his Grace's town residence at Dublin, is the most princely mansion in that city; and his country-seat, at Carton, in the county of Kildare, is not less magnificent; it is situated about twelve miles from Dublin, upon his Grace's estate, which, though occupying above eighty thousand acres in that county, did not produce, at a late general

ral election in Ireland, one hundred registered Protestant freeholders.

His Grace, some years since, built a very neat and regular town (called Maynooth), adjoining his country residence, principally inhabited by an humble race of manufacturers; and near this town he granted a large piece of ground, containing several acres, to the trustees of a seminary, established by act of parliament, in the year 1795, for the education of Roman Catholic youth;* upon which they have since erected a very handsome and commodious college for that purpose.

No tenantry are more affectionately treated by a landlord than those of the Duke of Leinster: he almost constantly resides among them, and the poor on his estate enjoy the continual distribution of comfort in their necessities, from the hospitable and princely mansion of Carton.

The Duke of Leinster's influence used to send ten members into the Irish House of Commons, viz. two

* The Irish government deemed it necessary to establish this seminary for the education of the Roman Catholic youths, to obviate the ill effects of foreign education, and of principles of foreign politics, imbibed by gentlemen of that persuasion. The liberality of parliament has already granted, from time to time, within the last three years, thirty-six thousand pounds in aid of this institution; and an implied promise to grant it an annual stipend of eight thousand pounds. This stipend having in the year 1799 passed through the House of Commons, was nevertheless rejected by the Lords (on the motion of the Lord-chancellor), in consequence of the conduct of several Irish Roman Catholic priests, during the late rebellion.

for the county of Kildare, and two for the borough of Kildare; two for the borough of Naas; two for the borough of Athy, and two for the borough of Haristown.

Notwithstanding the great estate possessed by the Duke of Leinster, the incumbrances which must always attach to so large a family, by the fortunes of brothers and sisters, jointures, children, &c. &c. with many other circumstances, added to his munificence in private life, have occasioned his Grace sometimes to have experienced pecuniary embarrassments, to alleviate which he disposed of his borough of Haristown, in the year 1793, to John La Touche, Esq. an eminent banker of Dublin, for the sum of sixteen thousand pounds.*

W. Y.

MRS. INCHBALD.

ON laying before our readers a few particulars relative to a lady of eminent abilities, it might be

* The liberality of Mr. John La Touche in this transaction deserves to be noticed. His newly erected country-house, which is spacious and costly, in the centre of an extensive and highly improved demesne, stands within this borough; and, when he found the Duke of Leinster was about to dispose of it, he communicated with his Grace to know the price, which the Duke laid at fourteen thousand pounds. Just at this time several boroughs were in the market: among others, the Earl of Westmeath was disposing of the borough of Fore to the late Colonel Bruen; when Mr. La Touche replied, that, as his house and demesne were upon this borough, it ought to bring as much money as any other borough, and accordingly he paid the Duke of Leinster what some others had sold for, viz. sixteen thousand pounds.

natural for us to introduce our remarks with complimenting the advocate of the Rights of Woman; and, when speaking of a lady equally distinguished for the attractions of her person as the superiority of her talents, it might be expected of the writer to express himself in terms of the highest admiration.

There is, unquestionably, ample room for complimentary language, and many rhetorical flourishes, on the present occasion. But, in Mrs. Inchbald, there are still higher grounds for eulogium. Her moral character constitutes her principal excellence; and, though useful talents and personal accomplishments, of themselves, form materials for an agreeable picture, moral qualities give the polish that fascinates the heart.

The history of this amiable woman is, in a very great degree, interesting, and, to speak the truth, not a little romantic. But a hint only will be here attempted; for a complete view of the most important events of such a life would require a considerable volume; and a work of this kind, it is understood, has for some time employed Mrs. Inchbald's own pen, a work which, whenever it makes its appearance, will, we doubt not, excite great interest, and convey much useful instruction.

Retirement, generally speaking, has been the nursery for the most distinguished characters. The birth-place of Mrs. Inchbald was an obscure village, five miles from Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk. Her father's name was Simson, a farmer, who had a large family, distinguished for the beauty of their persons.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth, the present Mrs. Inchbald, was particularly handsome; but having a natural impediment in her speech, she contracted very early in life an attachment to retirement, and a great fondness for reading, which excited in her, at the age of seventeen, a strong desire of visiting the metropolis, of which she had read so much in novels. She accordingly rambled from her father's house, without acquainting an individual with her intentions, and came to London a mere inquisitive adventurer.

This first important step in her life will, doubtless, by many be reckoned a rash and imprudent one. But the common rules of custom and prudence are not the ordinary measure of minds bent on adventure and experiment. The difficulties to be encountered form an apology in the breast of the adventurer; and if success attend the experiment, it is followed with admiration.

On Mrs. Inchbald's arrival in London, and disappointment, (for the friend on whose counsel she relied had left her place of residence in the metropolis) she thought that the profession which most readily offered itself to her was that of an actress; a profession, however, in which she might have expected to meet with some difficulties. Nor need we be surprised if she encountered considerable mortification ere she accomplished her purpose; and that she did not at first, notwithstanding the charms of a most alluring person, succeed with the managers.

In London, she married Mr. Inchbald, of Drury-Lane Theatre, and went with him to Edinburgh,

where

where she continued four years, and performed the principal parts on the Edinburgh theatre when she was but eighteen years of age.

From this circumstance we may draw a conclusion, that Mrs. Inchbald's unsuccessful attempts, hitherto, proceeded principally from natural impediments and private prejudices; for one who could with tolerable acceptance appear at so early a period as a principal actress, must have possessed a considerable degree of intellect, and no common insight into the human character.

At length Mrs. Yates, who had been long in possession of the public approbation in London, retired to Edinburgh, in consequence of a disagreement with the manager of Drury-Lane house, and became a formidable rival to Mrs. Inchbald. We shall not enter on a detail; suffice it to say, that our fair actress experienced many incivilities from Mrs. Yates; in consequence of which she and her husband quitted Edinburgh theatre, and passed two years at York in the theatrical character.

Indifferent health, brought on by trials of a private and delicate nature, occasioned Mrs. Inchbald's quitting York to pass a twelvemonth in the South of France, whence she returned to England with a new stock of health, and a mind stored with new ideas, prepared to encounter the other difficulties that make up this life of adventures.

Soon after her arrival in England she lost her husband; and, though her marriage had been rather the result of gratitude than of the tender affection (for

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there was a great disproportion in the ages of Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald), her conduct on this occasion reflected on her the highest honour. She now continued to act, for four years, at Covent-Garden theatre, and experienced some mortifications; at the end of which she accepted a place, not a very advantageous one, on the Dublin theatre. Thus was she fated to be passed from theatre to theatre.

On quitting the Dublin theatre, Mrs. Inchbald returned once more to Covent-Garden, where she continued an actress for some years; which situation she suddenly relinquished, continuing, however, to reside in London, though in great obscurity, and oppressed with poverty.

Considering the obstructions that even nature had thrown in her way, Mrs. Inchbald had no reason to complain of that share of the public attention which she obtained. She, however, was now quite satisfied in relinquishing for ever all thoughts of the stage, as an actress. It must not, however, be passed unnoticed, that, during the whole period of Mrs. Inchbald's theatrical engagements, she maintained an unblemished character; that the incidents of her life, though they have been made the subject of much conversation in the gay world, could never expose her to the censure of even the most serious and severe, that the worthy part of both sexes, who were honoured with her acquaintance, highly esteemed her worth. Her acquaintance with Mrs. Siddons, and Lady Derby more particularly, strengthened into friendship; and Mrs. Inchbald left behind her a cha-

acter

racter that may stand in opposition to the prejudices of such as think that an actress cannot be a virtuous woman. Nothing argues greater illiberality and littleness of intellect than such general conclusions; and it is but justice to observe, that there are to be found among those who have devoted themselves to the theatrical life, many persons of the most exemplary conduct.

Of the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald, as a woman of honour, even amidst all the gaiety of youth, and the powerful influence of a most fascinating person, there is but one opinion.

Henceforth, then, we are to consider Mrs. Inchbald in the light of an author only, in which character she holds a respectable station, and procures a very genteel independence. Her literary department is comedy, farce, translation, and novel.

The first piece she offered to Mr. Colman was a comedy, in five acts, entitled *I'll Tell you What*, whose hard fortune, however, it was to lie unnoticed in the manager's hands, till the success of a much smaller piece, *The Mogul Tale, or the Descent of the Balloon*, excited his curiosity to give it a perusal. The reception which this admired comedy obtained is well known. The writer has preserved the true province of comedy, which is a regard to manners, and an exhibition of character. The style possesses that sprightliness, the allusions that *naïveté*, which could not help to please.

The manager, Mr. George Colman, an incomparable judge, accredited this comedy by a prologue,

written by himself, and the public approbation stamped it as a performance of merit. The tide of Mrs. Inchbald's fortune, therefore, now began to turn. No longer perplexed as an actress, whose engagements, we have seen, were always precarious, and whose salary was seldom great; no longer mortified by undertaking writings, for which she could not procure a purchaser; she now saw her prospects brighten. Accordingly, she began to enlarge her rules of economy, and changed her humble lodgings for one more suited to her circumstances; for the great excellence in the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald has ever been a studied economy; by which, always accommodating her mode of living to her circumstances, she preserved, even amidst her humble fortunes, a high sense of moral dignity and her independence.

I'll Tell you What has been followed by other comedies, all of a similar cast as to style, character, and incident. Their titles are as follow: *Such Things Are*; *Every One has his Fault*; *The Wedding-Day*; *Wives as they Were, and Maids as they Are*. Our limits will not allow us to enter on particulars; suffice it to say, that each of them has been favourably received by the public; and that (I am not inquiring into their *peculiar* excellencies or defects) they possess that clear familiar style, seasoned with smartness, without being debased by groveling sentiments or gross language, which is the characteristic of *genteel* comedy.

The department of Mrs. Inchbald, then, confines
itself

itself to comedy. She seems never to have attempted tragedy, or even what is called tragi-comedy. Her province, therefore, was humour and satire, occasionally interspersed with the serious, agreeable to the costume of modern comedy. But as this species of writing is much conversant with the ridiculous, it was natural for Mrs. Inchbald to undertake that species of comic writing known by the name of farce.

It is the province of farce rather to caricature, than accurately to delineate character, the proper sphere of comedy. Accordingly we expect to find in it buffooneries, extravagancies, and false humour. — Though Mrs. Inchbald, therefore, has thought proper to entitle some of her smaller pieces farces, we shall take the liberty of calling them comedies in two, or three, or four acts; and this observation can offend none, who recollect, that, as comedy sinks into farce, so that farce frequently rises into comedy. Mrs. Inchbald's farces are *The Mogul Tale* and *Appearances are against Them*.

Those dramatic works of Mrs. Inchbald, which are either translations or foreign dramas adapted to the English stage, are the following: *The Widow's Vow*; *Animal Magnetism*; *The Married Man*; *Next-Door Neighbours*; *the Child of Nature*; and *Lovers' Vows*.

The very pleasing comedy, entitled *The Child of Nature*, seems to have been the favourite of our amiable comic writer, as she seems to have had her eye on it when she wrote her story entitled *Nature and Art*, as also in the *Lovers' Vows*; for the cha-

acter of Amanthis in the former, may be fairly supposed to have given a turn to the character of Amelia in the latter.

Lovers' Vows ranks in that description of writing denominated serious comedy, which is a considerable improvement on what has been called the old comedy, and has long since obtained a respectable rank in dramatic representations. Of Kotzebue, the much-admired author of *The Child of Love*, and the general character of his writings, it is unnecessary to say any thing here; and of *Lovers' Vows*, Kotzebue's play, adapted by Mrs. Inchbald to the English stage, it would be equally unnecessary to be particular. The favourable manner in which it has been received is in every one's recollection. We cannot, however, forbear noticing, that, in examining the character of *Lovers' Vows*, impartial criticism should mark the distinction between a translation and accommodating a foreign play to an English audience. For, as different languages have different idioms, so also have different nations their different manners, and different stages their different laws; and if a dramatic composition, formed on the manners and rules of one country, is to be performed in another, the different manners of the people, and the different laws of their theatres, must be consulted.

The Child of Love, by Kotzebue, having been given to Mrs. Inchbald, by the manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, to be "fitted," (I use her own words) "as her opinion should direct, to his stage," it was the part of Mrs. Inchbald not to suffer her
respect

respect for the ingenious Kotzebue to interfere with her respect for an English audience. She has, in her preface, pointed out the instances in which she has departed from her original; in most of which, being better adapted to the English stage, she seems to be perfectly justified. On the importance and worth of such alterations, readers of different tastes will think differently.

The next department of literature in which we are to view Mrs. Inchbald, is that of novel-writing, in which she has been no less successful than in dramatic compositions. That species of writing, called, in France and England novels, embraces tales or stories, the incidents of which are sufficiently interesting or uncommon, so as to excite surprise, and yet sufficiently natural, and, if I may so speak, domestic, to come home to the bosom. Love commonly forms the leading character of the performance. In keeping within the regions of nature and probability, it is distinguished from romance; and, not being represented by actors, it is distinguished from the drama; at the same time, it possesses some properties that belong to both.

The pleasing story entitled *Nature and Art*, Mrs. Inchbald has not thought proper to denominate a novel. We have so entitled it, merely to give it a specific character; but, by whatever title the work be denominated, it is sufficient to say, that the work fully answers its title. The story is interesting, the characters are accurately drawn, and the morality unexceptionably good. The satire (for it has some

satire) is just; the language is sprightly, but not fantastic; and the reflections are serious without being affected. Nature and Art is in two volumes.

The *Simple Story*, written also by our author, is a novel in four volumes. It is characterized by the same simplicity and spirit, both as to style and manner, as the former; but the characters are more various, the passions more interesting, and the plot is more intricate and surprising. This story is said to be Mrs. Inchbald's favourite, as it has certainly been with the public. We cannot forbear observing, that the leading points in Mrs. Inchbald's adventurous, but honourable life seem to have furnished two or three leading incidents in these stories, though diversified by numerous peculiarities and concealed with much contrivance. The *Simple Story* has gone through several editions.

The various perplexities and difficulties encountered by Mrs. Inchbald on her arrival in the metropolis; her obstacles among managers; her disappointments, and sudden reverses of fortune, her pertinent observations on manners and characters (such as cannot have escaped a mind formed for reflection, and determined on experiment), will come with great propriety from the able pen of Mrs. Inchbald herself.

W. E. R.

EARL WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM

WAS born in 1748, and succeeded to his titles at the age of eight years. Till his father's death he had

borne

borne the title of Lord Milton, and he then became Earl Fitzwilliam, both in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. The large estates which fell to him on this event were, during his minority, confided to the care of the late Sir Matthew Lambe, father of the present Lord Melbourne.

He was sent, at a very early age, to Eton-school, where his agreeable and generous disposition attracted the love of his school-fellows, many of whom contracted an uncommon affection for him. Among these may be particularly noticed Mr. Fox and the present Earls of Carlisle and Dorchester. From Eton he was sent to King's College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of doctor of laws. He afterwards went on his travels.

Few young noblemen ever entered life under more favourable auspices. Inheriting a good fortune from his father, he was also considered as presumptive heir to the large estates of the Marquis of Rockingham; as the friend of the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland, and of all the great characters whose names adorned the list of patriots of those days. To these connexions he soon added others, after he came of age, by his marriage with Lady Charlotte Ponsonby, daughter of the late, and sister of the present Earl of Besborough. This union connected him still closer with the great Whig families. He was married to this lady nearly sixteen years before she had a child, when she brought him a son and heir, the present Lord Milton; and she has since borne him a daughter.

From

From the time his Lordship took his seat in the House of Peers till the late unhappy contest with the French Republic, it may be boldly affirmed, that Lord Fitzwilliam never gave a vote that could be deemed hostile to the liberties and interests of his country. He entered warmly into the patriotic party, of which his illustrious uncle, Lord Rockingham, was the chief; and, during the great political contest of 1780, 1781, and 1782, when the nation evinced its weariness of the war, and the country-gentlemen, finding themselves duped by the minister, called loudly for a peace, Lord Fitzwilliam, by his motions in the House of Peers, or by his active support of the patriotic motions of other noble lords, was greatly instrumental in removing the obnoxious minister, and the uncle of Lord Fitzwilliam (Lord Rockingham) became prime-minister.

The death of that respectable nobleman caused a total schism in the administration; and, on Lord Shelburne's acceptance of the reins of government, many of the Rockingham party quitted him. Among these was Lord Fitzwilliam, who joined Mr. Fox; and those who have since been denominated the Portland party. This party, irritated at the mode taken by Lord Shelburne to wrest the power from their hands, committed an error, which at once blasted their reputation and their hopes: they joined the very man who had been almost the sole cause of their country's misfortunes, and whom many of them had threatened to bring to the scaffold.

In Mr. Fox's plan for a new constitution for the
settlements

settlements in India, Lord Fitzwilliam was included as head of the commissioners for India affairs; a place which would have given him as much power and influence as Mr. Dundas lately possessed. But the boldness of the design, aided by the tricks of its opponents, defeated this intention of the ministry, and drove the party again from power. The disgust of the people was indeed so general against the measure and against the coalition-ministry, that Lord Fitzwilliam, who had succeeded to the powerful interest of his uncle in the county and city of York, lost the whole of it, and his opponents have since carried the election almost entirely against him.

The noble Lord continued, however, to act steadily with his friend for many years. During the affair of the regency, he was the person designed by his party to fill the office of Lord-lieutenant of the kingdom of Ireland; and so fully assured were they of succeeding to power, that it is said the richest state-liveries were made, and every other preparation which could add magnificence and splendour to his viceroyalty.

But an event was approaching, which was to have the most important effect, both public and private, in this country. It in fact seems destined to operate a total change in the public opinion of this country; and in private life to separate, perhaps for ever, men who had previously entertained of each other the highest opinion, and who had thought and acted together from their earliest youth.

This event was the French revolution; and the

man whose mischievous eloquence could effect so great an evil was the late Mr. Burke. That many of the Opposition should become the dupes of Mr. Burke's violent prejudices was not surprising; they had maintained an unavailing contest for power for many years, and this event afforded them a pretext for going over to the ministry; but it is astonishing that a nobleman of Lord Fitzwilliam's independent spirit and fortune should suffer himself to be led away by this man, who it now appears was writing and declaiming only for a pension!

With the public disputes between Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox, and with the poignant distress of mind it occasioned the latter, every one is acquainted. The defection of Lord Fitzwilliam, the friend of his childhood, and the man of whose political principles he is said to have formed the highest opinion, was however to Mr. Fox a still more severe affliction. Lord Fitzwilliam is also peculiarly unfortunate in his new connexions, having repeatedly avowed opinions upon French affairs almost as opposite to theirs as they are to those of his old friends.

But let us now revert to his Lordship's connexions in Ireland.

The very large estate which this nobleman possesses in that kingdom, seemed to stand in need of attention; and accordingly his Lordship turned toward it care truly paternal. Some years since, at a very great expence, he erected a large and beautiful public building in the town of Rathdrum, in the county of Wicklow, in that kingdom, for the sale
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of flannels, the principal manufacture of that county. From this erection most essential benefit has been derived to those manufactures, by the facility with which they are brought to market, and by having a certain place established for their sale.

The self-interested and illiberal landlord would be induced to impute the munificence of Lord Fitzwilliam to the ultimate hope of extending his own interest in his Irish estates, by increased rents or increased certainty of their being well paid; but those who intimately know the principles on which his Lordship acts, will attribute his conduct to far nobler motives. It is certain, that so far from a tenant upon this estate ever feeling difficulty, much less oppression, his Lordship has often, during inclement seasons, ordered his agent to present such of his tenants as were known to be in distressed circumstances with a receipt for their half-year's rent; and although, for the last three years, his Lordship received little from this vast estate in Ireland, yet still are those persons experiencing his bounty.

Born a Whig, and educated in principles of hereditary public virtue, his Lordship long adhered to those principles in his parliamentary conduct. Ireland particularly is indebted to his exertions. In the hour of her distress she remembered who had been her benefactor; and her people, as with one voice, called upon HIM for assistance; and even under the late administration, though not congenial with his own sentiments, he consented to take, what PUBLIC NECESSITY required, the helm of the sister-kingdom.

kingdom. His measures for a moment appeased the storm; his liberality gave confidence to all; and his CONCILIATION changed discord and distraction into cheering unanimity.

In this situation, his Lordship opened the session of the Irish parliament in January 1793, with these emphatic words from the throne,

“In obedience to his Majesty’s commands, I now resort to your councils.”—

Thus commenced a session of parliament which, until then, had not for thirteen preceding years experienced the confidence of the people, or the universal conviction, that all the measures of its government would be pre-eminently for the advantage of Ireland.

To enter minutely into a detail of what has since been understood, as *broken compacts* between his Majesty’s ministers and this nobleman, touching his Lordship’s administration in Ireland, would be foreign from the purpose of these pages. It shall suffice to say, that Lord Fitzwilliam found it impossible to proceed upon his plan of making Ireland happy, and of rivetting the hearts of its people to its king, without dismissing from office those men whose situation was, as it were, the axis upon which the executive government revolved. All the men so removed were certainly obnoxious to the disinterested part of the people of that kingdom. They nevertheless assumed to themselves the appellation of the *king’s friends*. In their room, Lord Fitzwilliam called others to fill the several offices of the state, whose integrity

integrity and political virtue were unimpeached. Indeed a character for public virtue seemed alone to be the quality which governed all his appointments. It was in no instance more conspicuous than in the nomination which, during his short administration, he made to the highest spiritual dignity in that kingdom. It was shortly after his Lordship's accession to the Irish government that the late Dr. Robinson, Baron Rokeby, archbishop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland, died. In making choice of a successor, Lord Fitzwilliam did not resort to the long list of ecclesiastical recommendations, however highly patronized; nor to the spiritual dangles who swarm about a lord-lieutenant's levee; but he sought among the bench of Irish bishops, a character whose conduct had been marked by virtue, religion, and piety. He selected a man who had been, for above twenty years, eminently distinguished in the discharge of all those duties, and translated that eminently great scholar and excellent divine, the late Dr. William Newcome, from the see of Waterford to the archbishopric of Armagh.

Among the men dismissed from office by Lord Fitzwilliam was the Right Hon. John Beresford, then first commissioner of the revenue, who immediately resorted to England as one of the *king's friends*. This absence, however important he had been considered in the Irish administration, was not found materially to impede the happy progress of Lord Fitzwilliam's counsels. Parliament seconded his Lordship's endeavours to tranquillize the country,

try, and promote the general good of the empire, with great unanimity. In less than six weeks after the opening of this session of parliament, not only the ordinary supplies of the year were granted, but an extraordinary supply of 200,000*l.* for the purpose of carrying on the war. But, strange to tell, this was no sooner done than Lord Fitzwilliam was recalled, and Mr. Bressford re-instated in his official and confidential situations.

So highly venerated was Lord Fitzwilliam during his lieutenancy in Ireland, that a panic, more easy to be conceived than expressed, pervaded the whole kingdom, but more particularly the city of Dublin, upon the news of his Lordship's recall being made public. The nation again seemed to sink into despondency. The houses, shops, &c. in every street through which he passed, were all shut upon the memorable day on which he sailed for England; and at noon day a solemn silence and melancholy mourning marked the metropolis, and seemed to indicate the sad catastrophe which has since befallen that ill-fated country.

Such marks of national gratitude, sorrow, and disappointment must have greatly affected his Lordship; and it is equally true, that, in this important period of his life, when he indulged in the fond hope of making millions happy, his mortification only arose from his disappointment in being denied the privilege of bestowing that boon.

During the short time Lord Fitzwilliam continued in the lieutenancy of Ireland, Dublin-castle exhibited

bited a splendour which had never before been displayed in that kingdom. The magnificence of all his appointments, while they bespoke the dignity of the proprietor, furnished the means of industry and of happiness to thousands.

The laudable example held out at the Irish court by Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam operated by attracting thither the truly good, amiable, and virtuous part of the nation; in the same proportion that the vicious, the profligate, and the abandoned, fled from its lustre.

Lord Fitzwilliam, upon his return to England, took occasion to state some of the leading features of his short-lived administration in Ireland, in two letters to his old friend Lord Carlisle; which letters were afterwards published. In these, his Lordship enters pretty fully into the question, what privileges were agreed upon to be extended to the Roman Catholics of Ireland; he proves the wishes of the British cabinet to have been to keep back the agitation of that question; and finally attributes his sudden and ungracious recall to the machinations of Mr. Beresford.

Mr. Beresford, who had remained all this time in England, contrived to bring Lord Fitzwilliam to an *éclaircissement*, which was to be determined as an affair of honour. Lord F. gave Mr. B. a meeting in Hyde-park; but, the matter having by some means transpired, a stop was put to any farther proceedings in that way.

Lord Fitzwilliam was a strenuous advocate in the House of Commons 1799-1800.

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House

House of Peers for the prosecution of the late war; and, when Lord Malmesbury was sent by ministers, in the year 1796, to negotiate a peace with the French directory at Paris, Lord Fitzwilliam entered his single protest upon the journals of the House of Lords against the measure, in which he stated at great length his reasons and objections.

At the opening of the session of parliament in 1797, his Lordship, in terms of the strongest reprobation, delivered his sentiments upon the separate treaty of peace just then entered into between the Emperor of Germany and the French Republic; a treaty which he then prognosticated would not long exist; and remarked to ministers of how little avail had been their previous subsidies to a potentate, whom his Lordship called "*a Jacobin emperor.*"

A few months after, and in the same session of parliament, when Lord Moira brought forward the perilous situation of Ireland, and truly stated the smothered flame then kindling, which has since burst forth into such a blaze of terror, Lord Fitzwilliam warmly coincided with his Lordship, and strenuously recommended measures of conciliation instead of those of coercion and of torture. He advised rather to bring back the affections of the Irish people, and once more to send the dove to the throne, which might perhaps return with the olive, than to try the event of harsh measures with an impatient people. This advice was not attended to; it was rejected by the minister, and reprobated by the leading men in Ireland, who with a giddy hardness

hardiness of heart spurned every plan of mildness, without adverting to the probable consequence of such conduct. The consequence which actually followed was, that Ireland rushed into open rebellion; and it was thought advisable to have recourse to a system of still more severe coercion, such indeed as was never before heard of in the annals of the British empire.

By the junction of the Fitzwilliam and Rockingham estates, now vested in his Lordship, he sends five members into the House of Commons; viz. one for Higham Ferrars, two for Malton, and two for Peterborough; none of which were ever bartered by him or any of his Lordship's illustrious ancestors.

The dismissal of Lord Fitzwilliam from the viceroyalty of Ireland was evidently such as would have roused most men to opposition, from a conviction of the dangerous measure adopted by the ministry; but how much were the public surprised to see his Lordship still with the ministry, and shewing a difference of opinion from them chiefly in the affairs of Ireland.

But a subsequent transaction astonished the public, and the noble Lord's friends, much more.

Early in the year 1798, the conduct of the Duke of Norfolk at a tavern, in the celebration of the anniversary of Mr. Fox's first election for Westminster, gave great offence to ministers; inasmuch that his Grace was dismissed from the lieutenancy of the West Riding of Yorkshire, &c. and the command of the first West York regiment of militia.

The popularity of the Duke of Norfolk, both as

lord-lieutenant of that county and colonel of their first regiment, was such as rendered any substitute whom ministers might appoint likely to be very unpalatable. Lord Fitzwilliam, they well knew, could not be objected to, either by the county or the regiment; they also knew *they* could not venture to propose an honour to that nobleman without the certainty of its being spurned at with disdain, as coming from men whom his Lordship had so recently reprobated. There remained but one way to obtain Lord Fitzwilliam's acceptance of those honours; and, at the immediate request of his Majesty, he received his commission from his sovereign's hands.

The conduct of Lord Fitzwilliam towards this regiment is consistent with the general tenor of his life. The first care he took was to promote all those officers who had been placed in the regiment by the Duke of Norfolk, before he presented any of his own friends with commissions.

When his Lordship is with the regiment, he constantly attends their mess; and laying aside all the splendour of his rank and his usual attendants, he appears there with no more ostentatious shew than the youngest ensign of the corps.

The health, the situation, and the comforts of the privates and their families, are his Lordship's peculiar care; and his ardent wish and constant desire seem to be, that nothing shall be spared to make the regiment complete and happy.

Notwithstanding the disapprobation which Lord Fitzwilliam had explicitly avowed of the coercive measures

measures adopted by the Pitt administration for the government of Ireland in 1798, when the French made a descent upon that kingdom, Lord Fitzwilliam immediately repaired there for purposes, which, it has been rumoured, in case of emergency, were to be of a very important and confidential nature, delegated from the highest authority.

By the splendour in which the Earl lives in London and in Yorkshire, and still more especially at Milton-Abbey, in Northamptonshire, he at once contributes to the revenues of his country and sustains the dignity of the British peerage.

But it is not only by the taxes, which from this style of living he must pay, that he contributes to the expences of the state. A bill was passed in Ireland for appropriating a large sum of money to make good the losses sustained by suffering loyalists, during the rebellion in that kingdom; of which description his Lordship was by far the most prominent individual; yet, when the injured claimants presented themselves, Sir W. G. Newcomen, a Dublin banker, and M. P. rose in his place, and stated, that he had authority from Lord Fitzwilliam to decline receiving any compensation for his severe losses from government or the nation.

His Lordship has been uniformly an advocate for the extension of all municipal rights to the persons professing the Roman Catholic religion. He conceives the worship of the Virgin Mary, and the doctrine of the real presence, should be no bar to their emancipation.

His liberality is unbounded. The number of private charities which he has been in the habit of dispensing for the last twenty years, and the number of liberal donations, the majority of which has been distributed with such nice delicacy, that the persons relieved (many of whom, much above the common level, are ignorant to this hour of the bounteous donor) are equalled by few.

Lord Fitzwilliam, now in his fifty-fourth year, is tall and slender; of countenance and manner engaging, persuasive, and attractive. He delights a little in the sports of the turf; but his principal hours of enjoyment are occupied in the delights of the chase; exhibiting, in the midst of a splendid circle, the keenness of a sportsman combined with the magnificence of a prince.

The noble Lord has erected on his estate in Yorkshire a beacon, designed as a mausoleum to the memory of his uncle, the late ever-to-be-lamented Marquis of Rockingham.

Happy would it be for the empire of Great Britain, if not only his Lordship, but every peer and every statesman of the kingdom, were to imitate the virtues, and put in practice the principles, of that illustrious man!

MR. GODWIN.

MR. WILLIAM GODWIN is descended from a family of dissenters. His father, whose Christian name was John, was educated at the Dissenters' college

lege at Northampton, under the celebrated Dr. Doddridge; and was, in the concluding part of his life, minister of a congregation at Guestwick, a village in Norfolk. His attainments are said to have exceeded what is usual among persons of his situation. He lived, however, with the character of a very honest man.

Mr. Edward Godwin, the grandfather of Mr. Godwin, was the contemporary of Watts, Bradbury, Barker, and Neale, eminent ministers in the beginning of this century, with whom he was intimately connected. He resided in London, where he had a large congregation, most of whom were of the richer class among the dissenters. It is impossible for us to say what was the extent of his talents or learning; but his name stood very high. It was usual for the eminent writers among his friends to consult him on their productions; and a story is told of him, which, if true, and there seems to be no reason to question it, is a proof that he was regarded as a man of taste as well as learning. The story is the following:—Robert Blair, the author of a poem entitled the *Grave*, residing in a remote part of Scotland, committed the care of publishing that poem to Mr. Edward Godwin; at the same time consulting him as a critic. The poem, as every one knows, acquired great celebrity; and the author, coming to town some time afterward, embraced his friend, not only thanking him for his care in the publication, but acknowledging he was indebted for the greatest part of his success to his critic's advice and aid.

Mr. Godwin received the earliest part of his education from a schoolmaster in his father's neighbourhood. To discover what accidents have assisted in forming the habits of a great mind is one of the most beneficial purposes of biography. Mr. Godwin's first master seems to deserve a portion of the praise that belongs to those who have sensibility to perceive talents in their germ, and generosity to contribute to their growth with patient culture. He was a man above the ordinary rate of persons of his employment in so obscure a spot as that in which he kept his school; and having a good deal of penetration, and still more enthusiasm and benevolence, he soon openly declared that young Godwin was such a child as had never come under his observation before.

From this master, with whom it is probable Mr. Godwin acquired something better than the mere rudiments of such branches of learning as were taught in his school, he was sent to Norwich to pursue his studies under a private tutor; and from Norwich was removed to the Dissenters' college at Hoxton, near London, where he remained five years under the tuition of Dr. Kippis, editor of the *New Biographia Britannica*, and Dr. Rees, editor of *Chambers's Cyclopaedia*. The ordinary course of studies at Hoxton included the classics, Hebrew, logic, ethics, divinity, rhetoric, the mathematics, natural philosophy, and pneumatology.

Of Mr. Godwin's progress at the college little is known, and therefore it is probable there was nothing uncommon in it. He is said to have had a very

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small party there, by whom he was not only extremely beloved, but considered as infinitely superior to his fellow-students; and these are said to have avenged themselves by ridiculing him and his little faction.

It was usual for the young men at Hoxton, who were designed for ministers of the dissenting-church, to preach in London and its vicinity during the last year of their abode at the college. Mr. Godwin followed the practice; but it does not appear that he excelled his fellow-students. In 1778 he entered regularly on the office of a dissenting-minister, the functions of which he continued to discharge for the four years immediately succeeding, chiefly at Stowmarket, in Suffolk, where he had a congregation.

It well deserves to be noticed, that Mr. Godwin adopted the opinions of the Calvinists, although his teachers at Hoxton held the doctrine of Arminius or Arius. This, probably, was among the first fruits of that spirit of investigation that eminently marks his character. In the scheme of Calvinism, there is much to attract a religious mind having the intrepidity to pursue an argument through all its consequences.

In 1782 he removed to London, with the resolution of trusting to literature for the means of his future subsistence. It is not to be expected, that we have been able to trace the process of Mr. Godwin's mind from the time of his assuming the office of a dissenting minister to his laying it down. The more minute and curious parts can be known, with such
accuracy

accuracy as will justify the motives that make an investigation of that nature at all useful, only to himself, and must, in part, have escaped even his recollection; but Mr. Godwin, having early acquired the habit of close observation and profound research, is, no doubt, acquainted with many of the more subtle, as well as the palpable, operations of a change in opinions and feelings, perhaps without example for its extent, and it is his duty, as it is that of every man in his circumstances, to furnish the world with a history so important in the study of human nature. We have before us, however, a prodigy in its outward appearances. We find Mr. Godwin rigidly orthodox till about the year 1783; and in 1792 a writer, whose freedom of inquiry and fearlessness of deduction gave alarm not only to orthodoxy in religion, but to bigotry of every species. All that we have been able to discover beyond that outside, is the very early existence in his character of a love of knowledge. Throughout the whole of his inquiries, first in religion, and afterward in ethics, he never was to be satisfied till he had penetrated beyond the veil that at once bounds the discussions of the hypocrite and the perceptions of the ignorant.

With such a temper, something was to be expected from Mr. Godwin when he dedicated himself wholly to literature, and all his habits were of a nature to favour his pursuit. He was studious, patient, indefatigable, and extremely moderate in his expenditure. He soon perceived he could earn his bread with little labour; and, what was infinitely important

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to the completeness of his success, without any sacrifice of his taste and understanding to the multitude. Nor did he care how little more than bread he earned. To excel in his art was what he more immediately desired; and to be the successful advocate of truth, his ultimate and greatest ambition. Bearing these noble motives in his bosom, he was not impatient to appear before the public as a writer; and we are not to be surprised, that, for more than nine years after literature was his occupation, he was an obscure individual, except where accident had thrown him into the way of men who could distinguish talents while they were employed in collecting the materials of future success.

Mr. Godwin began his literary life in 1782, in six discourses upon historical narrations in the Bible, 12mo.; and it was not till 1792, or rather the beginning of 1793, that Political Justice was published. He had no reason to repent of the severe discipline he had imposed on himself. Within a few weeks of the appearance of that work, his immediate object, the acquisition of fame and its consequent power in the application of his talents, was obtained. He was not merely made known to the public, but was ranked at once among men of the highest genius and attainments.

The principles contained in Political Justice had all the appearances, and many of the effects, of self-evident axioms. To understand the terms, and adopt the propositions of the work, were so nearly inseparable, that it was a fact that some very great and learned

learned men, in expressing an abhorrence of its doctrines, could not conceal the secret that their detestation of Political Justice was chiefly occasioned by its subtlety in eluding their zeal to detect the radical error, which, from certain propositions they held to be infallible, they were sincerely persuaded lay somewhere in the work. Political Justice at once tortured their feelings, and baffled their reason. They were in the situation that fanatics in religion ascribe to some of their converts, believing and denying, and ready, in the bitterness of their hearts, to curse the question for intruding itself upon them. But while there was this ludicrous struggle in the minds of some of the readers of Political Justice, its terms were in reality so simple and intelligible, that the work, although discussing its topics at great length and in very minute detail, was scarcely published when it was every where the theme of popular conversation and praise. Perhaps no work of equal bulk ever had such a number of readers; and certainly no book of such profound inquiry ever made so many proselytes in an equal space of time. Pirated editions were published in Ireland and Scotland; and people of the lower class were the purchasers. In many places, perhaps some hundreds in England and Scotland, copies were bought by subscription, and read aloud in meetings of the subscribers.

Neither the favour Political Justice obtained with the populace, nor the strange puzzle it occasioned among some of the learned, are subjects of astonishment to him who considers the nature of the work.

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The fundamental proposition in Political Justice is, *that virtue consists in producing the happiness of society.* To deny that statement, is to abandon all the pretensions on which men found their claim to respect for their moral conduct. The sincere man, therefore, embraces the proposition with his whole heart; he has no need to run to a master to know its meaning, or to inquire if it is congenial with his feelings; to him it is real, if visionary to all the world beside. Mean time, the hypocrite is entrapped if he ventures to open his mouth; for he must acknowledge the truth of Mr. Godwin's statement, or formally publish a recantation of all the professions he has till that moment made of the motives of his public or social actions.

Mr. Godwin's scheme of morals is exhibited with such distinctness in his work, that we find no difficulty in giving our readers its entire outline in a very few words.—*Virtue consists in producing the happiness of society, and is the individual interest and the general perfection of man: he is a being governed by intellectual motives: to inform his mind on every subject, to the utmost extent of human perception, would be to give him motives irresistibly inclining him to virtue, as defined above: political freedom is an essential means to the cultivation of his mind in the greatest degree; and political freedom and knowledge, successively the cause and effect of each other, would carry him on indefinitely in improvement of mind and happiness of condition: by the unrestrained cultivation of knowledge, and universal political freedom,*
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it is possible to make every individual happy, and happy in a higher degree than the most fortunate is at present.

It is not possible for us, in the limits of this sketch of Mr. Godwin's life, to examine the merits of the respective arguments of that writer and his opponents. But one remark is too important to this great question to be omitted. Mr. Godwin's adversaries were inconsistent in their objections: they represented him, in one and the same picture, as a visionary whose schemes were too grand to be practised, from the inherent defects of human nature, and as a systematical-advocate of profligacy and vice. We are inclined to treat with a contempt of his understanding the person who seriously entertains the latter of these objections. It would be, indeed, to possess a bold and ardent temper, if we were implicitly to believe that men in general will ever answer all the claims that Mr. Godwin's system makes upon them of integrity, fortitude, and benevolence. But we think it may be asserted, without a probability of contradiction from those whose real object is the happiness of mankind, that it is impracticable to ascend into the region of Mr. Godwin's speculations without improvement of the heart and enlargement of the understanding, and without carrying along with us into the world we are obliged to act in, something to purify our conduct and ameliorate our condition.

In 1794 appeared Mr. Godwin's novel of Caleb Williams. His former production had so completely established his reputation for genius, that it can hardly be

be said this novel increased his fame. It proved the versatility of his powers; but the creative faculties, the richness, eloquence, and passion, displayed in *Political Justice*, were not excelled in *Caleb Williams*, although the latter was a form in which they were more obvious to the vulgar. Perhaps a work on ethics is never sufficient of itself to ensure the undiminished fame of a writer. Investigations of that kind, even when they produce facts, are in the nature of discoveries in arts, which are rendered insignificant by farther improvements in the same art. A work of imagination, if conducted on the principles of human actions, and enlivened by copiousness of invention, is eternal in its reputation. Mr. Godwin's *Caleb Williams*, therefore, gave permanency rather than accession of quantity to his fame.

In October 1794, Mr. Godwin wrote a pamphlet, entitled *Cursory Strictures on the Charge* delivered by Lord Chief-Justice Eyre to the Grand Jury, on the 2d of October 1794. In the charge which preceded the memorable state-trials of that year, certain doctrines were broached relative to the crime of high-treason, on the impression of which on the public mind probably depended the lives of the persons accused. The temper and circumstances of the times gave these doctrines such popularity, that almost instantaneously it was a current opinion that the accused were guilty, and would be convicted. Mr. Godwin saw the fallacy and danger of the reasoning in the charge; and, having employed a friend to write to his dictating, within eight-and-forty hours

produced

produced his *Cursory Strictures*. They first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, and thence were copied into other papers; and were, at the same time, sent to the press in the form of a pamphlet. On the day the pamphlet was published, the bookseller received an intimation that he would be prosecuted if he sold another copy. He stopped the sale; and another publisher was of course to be sought. But the business of the *Cursory Strictures* was already completed. The subtle mischiefs of the charge were exhibited in the *Strictures* with their natural undisguised deformity and coarseness. The public tide was turned; and, instead of the guilt and conviction of the accused, nothing was heard of, in the streets and places of resort, but the flagrancy of the offences of the charge.

Cursory Strictures afford a fine example of that species of writing. The author's vehement indignation, when he presents the charge to the public view stripped of its cunning, is a beautiful contrast to his cool and steady temper in removing its artful coverings.

In 1795 Mr. Godwin published an edition of *Political Justice*, in 8vo. There is in this edition something to endear him to every generous mind, intent only on the discovery of truth. In revising the opinions of that book, in the interval between the first and second edition, he thought some were erroneous; and, with the candour becoming the value of the inquiry, he availed himself of the second edition to inform his readers of his mistakes. The principal difference in the two editions will be found in the treat-

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ing of the four following topics: *Property; political change; marriage; and sincerity.*

Mr. Godwin, in entertaining that great and comprehensive principle, *that there is no portion of our time or property which virtue does not inflexibly apply to some definite use*, stated, in the first edition, as a natural result, that the existence of property in the hands of individuals, with the rights and powers ascribed to it by the law, is an error in politics. In the second edition, he qualifies the statement by acknowledging that the several members of society ought to be allowed a discretion in the use of the property they earn; and that, although it is still true that it is their duty to employ every particle of property according to some mode dictated by the occasion, and not by their caprice, it is inconsistent with political liberty to superintend and direct the application through the medium of political regulations.

In the first edition, Mr. Godwin, in speaking of *political change*, seems to have betrayed an impatience for the hour of its arrival; with the condition constantly annexed, however, of its being forwarded only by opinion, unassisted with force. In the second edition, he most explicitly and strenuously maintains that there exists, in the nature of things, a necessity for a slow as well as gradual change.

In urging his objections to *marriage*, as it exists at present, Mr. Godwin had left it as a question he did not decide, whether the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, or the selection of an individual of one sex by an individual of the other, would be the result of

his system ; but, in the second edition, he decides the question distinctly in favour of the latter.

Sincerity, Mr. Godwin, in the first edition, insisted upon as a quality never to be violated, even in any extreme case ; and, in the second edition, he qualifies this statement by the rule of utility, which sometimes, he admits, may demand a sacrifice of sincerity.

Beside these changes in Mr. Godwin's opinions, which are certainly important to his view of the result of his scheme in society, there are many others of considerably less effect. We have nothing at present to do with the truth or error of Mr. Godwin's opinions. But it is a question material to this sketch of his character, how far his authority, as a moralist, ought to be affected by these alterations ? And this question depends upon the resolution of a previous one, how far the alterations in *Political Justice* are destructive of the vital principles of the book as first described by the author ? If his scheme remains entire in one statement and the other, and the alterations exhibit no more than improvement in subordinate parts, making the whole, and even its outline, stronger than before, then it will be admitted that Mr. Godwin's candour, in giving the actual state of his mind to his reader, is not the only motive of reliance on him ; but that his authority is increased by his activity and penetration in the detection of his own erroneous deductions :

In 1796 Mr. Godwin published a volume of miscellaneous essays, under the title of *The Inquirer*. This book assumes a very modest appearance, affect-

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ing to contain nothing more than hints on important subjects. But these are strongly conceived, and have an original cast ; and the work affords one more proof of the writer's unquenchable passion for the discovery of truth.

The next publication of Mr. Godwin's pen that we have to notice, is connected with a story of peculiar interest. We allude to the *Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life*. The story connected with that work deserves to be told at length, if it could come within our limits. It exhibited Mr. Godwin in that difficult moment for him when the lofty doctrines he had taught made heavy claims on his own practice. He had loudly proclaimed his objections to marriage, and his hatred of that state was indeed inveterate enough. The time came, when he was to subject the woman of his choice to unmerited obloquy, or comply with forms he could not approve. The situation was trying. But Mr. Godwin conceived the production of happiness to be the true criterion of morality; and he did not hesitate to choose, where unlimited mischiefs were to be incurred on one hand, and a definite and comparatively small evil endured on the other.

Mr. Godwin was married to Mrs. Wolstonecraft in 1797. He had slightly known that most celebrated and most injured woman before her residence in France. After her return, accident brought him into her company. He learnt her sorrowful situation at that period; and with a zeal the vulgar are accustomed to call romantic, attached himself to the design of restoring a noble mind to itself and society.

The elevated talents, and perhaps still more elevated temper, of Mrs. Wolstonecraft, were almost universally known in the world; and the sweetest of the feminine attractions were not less the qualities of this extraordinary woman than the grandeur of mind so generally acknowledged in her. She was one of those, that the powers of nature and the cultivation of society sometimes unite to form, for whom every sensible and polished mind almost loses its veneration in the excess of its love.

The manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Godwin lived together may be presented as a model for conjugal life. Mr. Godwin's former dislike of marriage was occasioned chiefly by the tyranny it almost always includes. It is not surprising, therefore, that his enlightened views of that intercourse should enable him to shun that rock. But it is not by the mere absence of prominent mischiefs that we can describe Mr. Godwin's roof while his wife lived. To all that is dignified in the delicate relation of married persons, we must add those innumerable requisites of domestic peace that are found in cheerfulness, goodwill, and mutual deference to the adverse opinions that, in two minds of great vigour, must almost necessarily exist. One of the passions that has the most powerful hold on Mr. Godwin's mind is, a fondness for conversation with persons of superior talents. He has always asserted it to be among the most fertile causes of intellectual improvement, when rich and congenial souls chance to meet. We shall not, therefore, be very much in danger of exaggerating,

rating, if we endeavour to form a picture of the perfection to which he now carried this favourite scheme of pleasure and improvement. So many accessary temptations as conversation offered him, in his intercourse with Mrs. Godwin, would not fail to bring its cultivation, in this instance, to a very unusual degree of excellence.

Mrs. Godwin died in September 1797. In the scenes that belong to that afflicting period, Mr. Godwin was still to be exhibited in an unexpected light to those who were accustomed to regard him as a hard unfeeling theorist. He watched over the means attempted for her recovery with a fortitude and presence of mind, that recalled to his friends the recollection of the philosopher they had been used to contemplate in his writings; but, when hope was gone, he abandoned himself to sorrow that seemed to assimilate him with the weakest of mankind; and, when Mrs. Godwin was no more, he admitted of no consolation, in the first moments of his anguish, but that of paying a superstitious respect to her remains.

It was in January 1798 that Mr. Godwin published his *Memoirs of the Life of Mrs. Godwin*. In May of the same year a second edition of that work appeared. A painful choice seems to present itself to every ingenuous person who composes memoirs of himself or of any one so nearly connected with himself as in the present instance. He must either expose himself with disadvantage to the illiberal and malicious temper that exists in the world, or violate the honour and integrity of his feelings. Yet, that

the heart should be known in all its windings, is an object of infinite importance to him who would benefit the human race. Mr. Godwin did not prefer a cowardly silence, nor treachery to the public, having chosen to write. Perhaps such works as the *Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life*, and *Rousseau's Confessions*, will ever disgrace their writers with the meaner spirits of the world; but then it is to be remembered, that this herd neither confers nor can take away fame.

Mr Godwin's next publication was his "*St. Leon*," a work of fancy of uncommon merit. In the opinions of such readers as are capable of estimating the beauties of this romance, it must attain the highest rank among all the works of imagination which modern times have produced.

Mr. Godwin has produced a tragedy, entitled *Antonio; or, The Soldier's Return*; which was performed at Drury-lane theatre. Like the *Irene* of Johnson, it was unsuccessful on the stage; but it cannot fail to delight in the closet.

His next publication was a pamphlet in reply to some remarks contained in a sermon preached and published by Dr. Parr. This little work is a masterly vindication of his own character and principles against the attacks of Dr. Parr, Mr. Mackintosh, and the author of the *Essay on Population*.

Every lover of literature, and friend of research, acquainted with the strength and extent of Mr. Godwin's talents, will be happy to learn that his comprehensive and inquiring mind has been for a considerable

able time exercised upon a "Life of Chaucer," the great father of English poetry; a work which necessarily involves an examination of the state of society and manners as it existed among our ancestors in the fourteenth century. It would be difficult to discover among our contemporaries a man of letters so competent as Mr. Godwin to such an undertaking; whether we consider the profound erudition, the unprejudiced judgment, the genuine taste, or the patient investigation which such a task absolutely requires.

In 1801 Mr. Godwin entered a second time into the married state, with a lady of amiable manners and considerable talents.

Of Mr. Godwin's character, both as a man and a writer, the chief features are obvious in this slight sketch of his life. His writings display greatness of talent; and his life, virtue practised on principles supposed to be too refined to be applicable to ordinary affairs. Without laying claim to the power of raising his conduct to the elevation of his doctrines, which he does not hold to be necessary to their solidity, he perhaps is foremost among those who approach that rule, of making the happiness of society the object of moral conduct. And, if society never reaches that state of improvement in which that fine maxim is the general law, Mr. Godwin has, nevertheless, this recompense for his labours—that there will always be a virtuous class to whom his speculations will have afforded new motives for the exertion

of their humanity, to alleviate at least the miseries to which men, on that supposition, are unhappily doomed.

THE REV. MR. GRAVES.
(OF CLAVERTON.)

IT is now nearly forty years since the public were first acquainted with the subject of this memoir, as the intimate friend and correspondent of the late Mr. Shenstone of the Leasowes. From that period he has grown into more extensive notice in the literary world, as the editor and reputed *author* of several amusing publications, which have been well received by the public.

Mr. Graves is a younger son of the late Richard Graves, Esq. of Mickleton, in the northern extremity of the county of Gloucester, where he was born in the year 1715. His father was esteemed a very learned man, and a good antiquary, being honoured with the appellation of "Gravesius Noster" by Mr. Thomas Hearne, the Oxford antiquary; and Mr. Ballard, who wrote the lives of "The Learned Ladies," speaks highly of him, in a manuscript letter,* preserved in the Bodleian Library, as "a gentleman endowed with every good quality, admirably skilled in the Roman and British antiquities, an excellent historian, antiquary, and medalist;" and adds, "that he had made vast collections towards the history and

* See Dr. Nash's History of Worcestershire, vol. i. p. 199.

antiquities of that part of the vale of Evesham where most of his estates lie, which he had collected, at great pains and expence, from Doomsday-Book and from the manuscripts and records in the Tower and divers other places. Those papers, after his death, came into the hands of his friend, James West, Esq. late president of the Royal Society, at whose deccase they were sold, in 1772, to the Earl of Shelburne.* He died in September 1729, and has an elegant epitaph in the church at Mickleton, written by his friend Mr. West.*

The Rev. Richard Graves, the subject of this article, received the first part of his classical education under a Mr. Smith, the curate of the parish, who, probably, to please his father, made him read Hesiod and Homer at twelve years of age, and at whose house he reckoned among his school-fellows Mr. Howard Hastings, the father of the celebrated governor-general of Bengal.

At about the age of thirteen, Mr. Graves was sent to Abingdon, in Berkshire, where was then a public school; thence, when he was turned of sixteen, he was chosen scholar of Pembroke-College in Oxford.

Soon after he went to reside at college he was invited to a small and sober party of young men, who amused themselves in an evening in reading Greek, and drinking water.† Here he continued six months;

* Mr. James West, Mr. Graves, and a few more, contributed greatly to bring the study of the Saxon and English antiquities into vogue at that period,

† At the head of this party was Dr. Dumaresque, afterward chaplain

and they read over Epictetus, Theophrastus's Characters, Phalaris's Epistles, and such other Greek authors as are seldom read at school. After shifting from one party or set of company to another, in which colleges are usually divided, Mr. Graves became attached to Mr. Shenstone and a Mr. Anthony Whistler, an ingenious young gentleman of a good family and genteel fortune in Oxfordshire. These three met almost every evening; and, as he says, read plays and poetry, Spectators and Tatlers, and other works of easy digestion, and "sipped Florence wine the whole summer." *

But, as a scholarship of Pembroke afforded a very small supply towards the expense of an university education, Mr. Graves tried his fortune at All-Souls' College, where he was elected fellow, in 1736, by the interest chiefly of Mr. Wood, of Littleton, Middlesex, then likewise a fellow of the college; and who lived to celebrate his ninetieth birth-day.

Here he became particularly intimate with Sir William Blackstone,† who followed him, within two or three years, from the same college.

chaplain to the factory at Petersburg, and now, in his eighty-eighth year, settled on a living in Somersetshire.

* See "Recollections," printed for Dodsley.

† Perhaps none of the friends or biographers of Sir William was better qualified to speak justly and accurately of his comprehensive genius than Mr. Graves, or is better able to offer more honourable testimony to the erudition, genius, and judgment, of this great man in every branch of science as well as the law. The familiar friendship, indeed, which subsisted from the earliest period

Soon after Mr. Graves was chosen at All-Souls, instead of pursuing his theological studies, as he had intended, he conceived the idea of studying physic, which he thought a more *genteel* profession; and, as preparatory to that study, went through two courses of anatomy in London, with that celebrated anatomist Dr. Nichols. But at the end of the second course he was attacked by a nervous fever which had been some time coming upon him. After the lecture, the Doctor took him into his study, and read to him his case in Hoffman. "There, (says he) now go to bed, and *sweat* there these six weeks."— This he literally did; but in spite of assafoetida volus, "and all the *cordial* medicines of the shops," nature was so far exhausted, that, if another physician, who was called in, had not ordered him a glass of sack every day and a toast, he could not have survived the experiment.

This severe discipline, the effects of which he never thoroughly recovered, left him in so languid a state, that he thought fit to relinquish the medical line, and resume the study of divinity; and in 1740, took orders. Mr. Graves's elder brother was acquainted, at the Temple, with Mr. Fitzherbert, the father of the late Sir William Fitzherbert, and of Lord St. Helen's, who was going to settle on his estate at Tissington, in Derbyshire; and, having a

period of their lives, to the death of that illustrious Judge, made him competent to speak of every useful regulation, in which he was engaged, in every department of the college and the university.

donative in his gift, wished to have a clergyman with him in the house as a companion : of this offer Mr. Graves gladly accepted.

As Mr. Fitzherbert was a man of the most amiable manners, Mr. Graves had an opportunity of enjoying the highest pleasures of society in his house, where Mr. Charles Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden) and many other young men of distinguished rank and abilities were frequent visitors.

When Mr. Graves had been about three years in Derbyshire, he was coming, by turn, into office in the college, and, therefore, wished to get a curacy nearer to Oxford. But, before he left his situation with Mr. Fitzherbert, he went with Mr. Seward (the father of Miss Anna Seward and the publisher of Beaumont and Fletcher) to make the tour of the north; and, while at Scarborough, walking in the street, he was accosted by an old clergyman, with an immense beaver and a long cravat, who, after surveying him with great attention, asked him if his name was not Graves; and, being answered in the affirmative, said he had been making inquiries after him for these three weeks; that his brother had told him, he wanted a curacy near Oxford, which he had procured for him; but that, if Mr. Graves did not wait on the gentleman, near Newbury, in Berks, within a week or ten days, it would be otherwise disposed of. The old gentleman, who thus interested himself in Mr. Graves's behalf, was Dr. Samuel Knight, a distant relation, the author of the Lives of Erasmus and Dean Collet, and then archdeacon

deacon of Berkshire, who, four or five years before, had taken Mr. Graves to the chaplain's table at St. James's; but, as he had hardly ever seen him, except at that time, he did not recollect his person.

We have been the more minute in relating this trifling event, because on this apparently fortuitous meeting depended the future condition of Mr. Graves's whole life. As the parsonage-house on this curacy was very indifferent, and Mr. Graves found it very uncomfortable living there alone, he prevailed on a gentleman-farmer to take him as a boarder. The farmer had daughters grown up: the youngest was not yet fifteen, very handsome, good-natured, and unaffected. A fellowship of All-Souls is so desirable a thing, and Mr. Graves was so far from entertaining any thoughts of marrying, that he had, a very few years before, declined accepting a proposal, which he had reason to suppose would have been agreeable to each family, of a young lady whose portion was a good living and an agreeable situation.

Being, however, now off his guard, the artless simplicity of this young nymph gained insensibly upon his affections; and, before he was aware, he became so fascinated by her attractions, that, however indiscreet such a proceeding really was, he married, and resigned his fellowship. He had now thrown himself on the wide world, with a slender, younger brother's fortune, and a curacy of fifty pounds a year; which, with a very neat, but small house, was offered him by an acquaintance, a most worthy

worthy and respectable man, of a good private fortune, near Reading, but in Oxfordshire.

As Mr. Graves had highly displeased his elder brother, by resigning his fellowship, and by so imprudent a match, he had at this time no prospect of bettering his condition. A series, however, of unexpected and highly-improbable incidents counteracted the effects of his indiscretion.

After about two years residence on this curacy, he was informed that a living in the neighbourhood was vacant, and was advised to apply to his friend Sir T. H—— of Langley, to procure it for him. Although Mr. Graves had no reason to think that Sir T. for particular reasons, would apply to the Chancellor, in whose gift the living was, yet he did not fail to make him a visit on the occasion, which terminated as he expected. About a month afterwards, however, Sir T. meeting a friend of his,* Mr. Skrine, who had then a vacant living in his gift, and was distressed for a proper person to be presented to it, fortunately recollected Mr. Graves's request, and proposed him accordingly; and Mr. Graves having been formerly known to Mr. Skrine at Oxford, he found no difficulty in obtaining the presentation. This living was the rectory of Claverton, in Somersetshire, where Mr. Graves came to reside in 1750, and from which he has never been absent a *month* at *one* time, for more than half a century. This little

* Mr. Skrine, father to the accomplished Lady Clarges.

piece of preferment contributed so much to Mr. Graves's happiness, that he seldom mentions the subject without expressing a grateful sense of the superintending care of Providence, in directing this seemingly fortuitous concurrence of circumstances to so desirable an event.

As Mr. Graves was under the necessity of educating his own children, he took under his care other young gentlemen, and continued that employment above thirty years; and some of his pupils have since made a very respectable figure in the world.

In the year 1763, Mr. Graves was presented to the living of Kilmersdon, in addition to that of Claverton, through the interest of Ralph Allen, Esq. of Prior-Park, who also procured him a scarf from Lady Chatham. When he waited on her Ladyship at Hayes, on that occasion, she condescended to examine the present Lord Chatham and Mr. Pitt, in French, before him. The latter was then about five years old, and answered every question in a manner that astonished the visitor, and gave striking marks of those splendid talents which have since distinguished that statesman.

While Mr. Graves was in town, he received the news of Mr. Shenstone's death, and that he was, in conjunction with Mr. Robert Dodsley, appointed one of his executors. Mr. Shenstone's will was very short and clear; but, on consulting a country-attorney on the subject, he started six or seven questions to be laid before counsel. The principal was, that, having left his housekeeper an *annuity* of thirty pounds,

pounds, *to be paid half-yearly*, it was *doubtful* whether it meant thirty pounds every half-year, or only thirty pounds in the whole; though she herself, and every one, knew the testator's intention. The executors, therefore, were advised to put the affair into Chancery, in an *amicable way*, where, after bills of survivor and other impediments, they obtained a decree in a little more than a space of seven years. This circumstance he has happily introduced into his excellent comic romance "*The Spiritual Quixote*." Mr. Graves is now living at Claverton, healthy and active, unless what he says of himself is only a poetical flight.

"A wight there was, scarce known I ween to fame,
Who day by day to Bath's fam'd city came;
Meagre and very rueful were his looks,
He seem'd as he had fed on nought but books;
His old great-coat, 'which he could ne'er forsake,
Hung half before and half behind his back;
Full threescore springs had blossom'd o'er his head,
Yet nimble as a roebuck was his tread;
For, in his youth, he ne'er did heat his blood
With liquors hot, or high and luscious food;
Therefore his age, like frosty winter past,
Hoary, but hale and healthy to the last.
'What! walk to Bath, sir?' cries some gouty man:
'No, sir,' quoth he, 'I did not *walk*—I *ran*.'
He strolled about, and travers'd many a street,
Eftsoons some friend or dainty nymph would greet,
With scornful looks, by empty fops survey'd,
By scornful looks or sneers, he, undismay'd,
On matters deep or mused or seem'd to muse;
Then made a halt, then read or heard the news;
Bought some old book or print perchance, and, then,
Small bus'ness done, he travell'd home again.

Such

Such is the life of man, with busy face,
 On trifles bent, he strolls from place to place;
 With various scenes of happiness amus'd,
 By turns applauded, and by turns abus'd;
 To Sorrow's school sent weeping from the womb,
 Spends his short span, then hastens to the tomb.
 Life's but a morning lounge, unless confin'd
 To duty's path, and useful to mankind."

REVERIES OF SOLITUDE.

As he looks upon *repletion* as the principal cause of most, if not all, the diseases incident to mankind, his antidote is not merely temperance, but rigid abstinence, and even fasting on frequent occasions. Exercise, he thinks, is expedient, but *temperance* is indispensably necessary.

Mr. Graves's first publication was, "The Fes-ton, or a Collection of Epigrams, with an Essay on that species of Composition." The fate of which essay is remarkable. A silver medal having been announced for the best essay on that subject, by the proprietors of a periodical work, a journeyman-apothecary in Bath did Mr. Graves the honour of adopting this essay as his own; and had the medal adjudged to him for the performance. On the plagiarism being discovered, however, the medal was sent to Mr. Graves.

In 1786 came before the public, a work in one volume, called "Lucubrations in Prose and Rhyme." This was given under the feigned name of the *late* Peter of Pomfret; so the author called himself, on account of his family coming in the last century from
 1799-1800.

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Yorkshire.

Yorkshire. Both the foreign and domestic critics spoke of this production with deserved respect.

In 1772 Mr. Graves published the *Spiritual Quixotte*, of which he gives the following account:—That although the editor was not the best of all possible preachers, yet his parishioners were so well satisfied with his doctrine, that they regularly attended the service every Sunday. But, after a little time, a journeyman-shoemaker, from Bradford, came into his parish, and brought with him a large congregation, and preached and sang psalms in a large old house; and, thenceforth, he found his church almost deserted, and his flock seemed to treat him with much less respect than they had before done.

On Mr. Graves's going to the meeting, and reminding the preacher, that, as the house was not licensed, he was liable to a penalty of 20l. he desired to preach there for half a year, that it might be seen which could convert most drunkards and sinners of every description. He then asked Mr. Graves what was his definition of faith? and behaved with very great insolence and impertinence, but never repeated his visits more.

The author of the *Spiritual Quixotte* acknowledges that he was actuated by some degree of spleen in commencing that work; and (as he says) he by no means thinks "*ridicule the proper test of truth*," but the more he reflected on the pernicious tendency of such irregular proceedings to society, the more he thought himself warranted in his endeavours to ex-

pose those itinerant teachers, who aimed at rendering the regular clergy contemptible in the eyes of their parishioners, and their instructions useless. This work is a very just exposure of that lamentable spirit of delusion and imposture which has contributed in no small degree to the increase of infidelity. Yet, in these very entertaining volumes, Mr. Graves has candidly allowed that some of the Methodists were actuated by pious motives; and he has also attributed the growth of the evil, in a great measure, to the remissness of many of the regular clergy. His next publication was, "A Translation from the Italian of *Galateo*, or a Treatise on Politeness, by De la Casa, Archbishop of Benevento." He then published "*Columella*, or the distressed Anchorite," which he calls "A Colloquial Tale," to shew the probable ill consequence of a young man, designed by his education for some useful profession, or more elevated situation in life, retiring in the vigour of youth to solitude and indolence in the country. Having now gained some degree of celebrity, he was encouraged by Mr. Dodsley to publish two volumes of poetical pieces (which went through two or three editions), under the title of "Euphrosyne." Mr. Graves makes many apologies, in his writings, for this habit of "rhyming;" and says, it is as hard to be subdued as a habit of swearing or drinking, and is almost inclined to think, man is a rhyming as well as a reasoning animal. • He

• See *Reveries of Solitude*, p. 90.

imputes this, in some measure, to his intimacy with Mr. Shenstone in his youth, and the seductive charms of Lady Millar's Bath-Easton Myrtle in his earlier years.

As to the "Sorrows of Werter," of which Mr. Graves has been said to be the editor, we understand, he only gave Mr. Dodsley the manuscript at the request of a particular acquaintance, and that he does not even know who was the translator, though he suspected the translation to have come from the pen of a very ingenious person of his friend's acquaintance.

"Eugenius, or Anecdotes of the Golden Vale," a narrative of real facts somewhat embellished.

"Recollections"* of some particulars in the life of

* "Recollections," &c.—These letters Mr. Graves published in 1788, in consequence of what Dr. Johnson says, "that Mr. Shenstone had not a comprehensive mind, or active curiosity, or any value for those branches of knowledge which he himself had not cultivated;" than which nothing can be farther from the truth.—See page about 180; for we have not the book at hand.

We recollect, however, one or two remarkable traits in Mr. Shenstone's character. One is, that, even at the age of eighteen, nothing could have bribed him to depart from the dignity of his deportment so far as to join in a country-dance. Another was, that he refused to transport a man, with five children, for robbing his fish-pond, suggesting the *policy* of substituting some indelible mark of *infamy* in the place of capital punishments, which was an original idea in him, having never read Beccaria, or any book on the subject.

The following lines were written when very young, and were never before printed:

While

Mr. Shenstone, in a series of Letters to W. Seward, Esq. F. R. S. 1788.

"Plexippus on the Aspiring Plebeian," by the same author.

"The Rout," in a letter from a young man in town to his friend in the country.

"Fleurettes," a translation of Archbishop Fénelon's Ode on Solitude, and other French authors. Inscribed to Mrs. Montague.

"The Life of Commodus," from the Greek of Herodian.

"Hiero," on the condition of royalty, from Xenophon.

"The Meditations of Antoninus, from the Greek. Inscribed, by permission, to the late Honourable and universally-lamented Edward James Eliot."

"The Reveries of Solitude." Consisting of Mus-

While round, in wild retortings hurl'd,

These glittering forms I view,

Methinks the busy restless world

Is pictur'd in a few.

So may the busy world advance,

Since thus the Fates decree;

It still may have its busy dance,

Whilst I retire with thee."

The principal object of the little volume of Shenstonian anecdotes, which Mr. Graves published under the name of "Recollections," was, as we have observed, to vindicate him from the unjust censure of Johnson, and from Grey's ridicule, which Mason, who was jealous of him as a gardener, so unsuccessfully published.

* Meaning the ingenious Smith, whose urn is the subject of his fourth elegy.

cupula, and other pieces in verse. Printed by Mr. Cruttwell, in Bath; and sold by Mr. Dilly, in London.

"The Coalition, or Rehearsal of the Pastoral Opera of Echo and Narcissus." Inscribed to the Honourable Miss Tracy.

Mr. Graves has also published a small octavo volume of Sermons on various Subjects, inscribed to Sir Walter James, Bt. with a preface, in which "he thinks it necessary, from mere regard to decency, after publishing so many volumes of a merely amusing kind, to give this proof (such as it is) that he has not been totally inattentive to his profession." We do not find that Mr. Graves has published any thing else, except a small poem called "The Farmer's Son," as a counterpart to Mr. Anstey's "Farmer's Daughter," a most affecting tale, in the ballad metre.

In a brief summary account (comprehending at once a list and character of pieces), which has been furnished us by a sensible correspondent who has the honour to be acquainted with Mr. Graves, and the merit to deserve it, it is truly observed, that his "Love of Order," is his longest and most methodical poem; and the "Invitation to the Feathered Race" one of the most sweet; that his Epigrams have great point; his Epitaph for Quin elegantly turned, and truly moral; and the "Hogs of Bristol," with much satire, mingles an equal share of pleasantry. The compliment to the late Archdeacon of Bath has never been excelled. Wishing to retire to some of the villages near Bath, from the heat of the weather and the

the buzz of company, to seek a retreat for himself and his muse, he says,

“ At Kelston she would wish to sing,
And play whene'er I teaze her ;
Still by the pensive Muse I am told,
Those woods were made for *Cæsar*.”*

“ At Newton she would wish to sing,
Good rector! but, I fear,
Regard for you a crowd will bring,
And make a city there!”†

The conversation of this venerable man is agreeably zested with that epigrammatic turn which points his writings of the lighter kind; and, being accompanied by constant good-humour, renders him everywhere an acceptable companion, his colloquial impromptu's being frequently as happy as the *jeu d'esprits* of his pen, while both are the unmeditated effusions of a still sportive fancy and guileless heart.

His personal figure is very happily caught by the annexed etching; and, even at this comparatively patriarchal age, he has the easy air, light step, and brisk movement, of a stripling. He has, indeed, always been remarkable for his activity, and was generally to be seen in a compromise pace betwixt a walk and a run; which occasioned the late well-remembered Mr. Thicknesse to say, pleasantly, that “Mr. Graves would be one of the most agreeable men in the world if *he had but time*; for want of which, he only came to see you, to let you know he could not stay with you a single moment!”

* Sir Cæsar Hawkins.

† See *Euphrosyne*, a vol.

Mr. Graves still resides at his Claverton retirement, and is the last of the bright association composed of the Jagos, Shenstones, Whistlers, and Somervilles, of the day.—Long may the *corner-stone* of the building still remain to remind us, that

—— “Such men were,
And were most precious to us.”

P.

WILLIAM SHIELD, ESQ.

GENIUS is not always to be estimated by the precise degree of merit discoverable in its productions: to decide justly on individual talent, it often becomes necessary to take into the account the disadvantages it has encountered, and the obstacles it has overcome; to throw into the same scale the works, and the occasional embarrassments of the author, and to judge by what he has produced in unfavourable and discouraging situations, what he probably would have effected under circumstances more auspicious to his views and inclinations. To these considerations the subject of the present memoir is particularly entitled. Mr. Shield, by the intrinsic power of genius, has borne down every opposition of accident or fortune, and has raised himself into high and justly merited distinction in that path to which nature propelled and fitted him.

Mr. Shield was born in the year 1754, at Swalwell, in the county of Durham. His father, whose profession was that of a singing-master, was a man much

and

and generally esteemed for his personal integrity, and admired by the cognoscenti of his neighbourhood for his professional excellence. Soon after the birth of his son William, he removed to South Shields; and such was his musical repute, that his practice, even in that obscure situation, embraced the tuition of nearly a hundred scholars.

William discovered so early a taste for music, that his father began to teach him the violin when he was but six years of age; and, in the short space of a year and a half, he made so extraordinary a progress as to be able to perform Corelli's fifth work; although, in the mean while, much of his time was occupied in practising the harpsichord, on which instrument he made a considerable progress, as well as in the scientific exercise of his voice, during which he acquired, even at that early period, so perfect an acquaintance with the several clefs as to be able to read them with facility: a circumstance in direct opposition to the prevalent report, that Mr. Shield is wholly a self-taught musician, and did not enter upon the study of his art till he had considerably advanced in life. William had only reached his ninth year when he had the misfortune to lose his parent and tutor, who left a widow with four children.

The boy was so partial to the practice in which he had made so uncommon a progress, as to be greatly solicitous to continue it, and to render music his fixed profession; but this propensity was thwarted by the constant ridicule with which he heard the profession of a *fiddler* treated in a sea-port town; and,

on

on his proposing to relinquish it, three several employments were offered for his choice, and he had the liberty of becoming either a sailor, a boat-builder, or a *barber*. Of these, the latter was preferred by his mother's friends, because his fingers had already been used to *nice* work: the hand hitherto employed in drawing the *bow* was, they thought, well fitted for wielding the *razor*; but William's mind, like that of his sea-port companions, having then but one idea of manhood, could no more brook the becoming a *barber* than a *fiddler*, and decided in favour of boat-building: he was accordingly bound apprentice to Edward Davison, then living in the vicinity of South-Shields. His master kept him pretty close to the practice of his new profession; yet was so far indulgent to his favourite amusement as not to object to his continuing the cultivation of his musical talents at proper intervals; and Shield, in the third year of his articleship, occasionally turned his harmonic abilities to pecuniary account.

Soon after the expiration of his indentures, he resolved to quit boat-building, and to adopt music as his profession. Fortunately for young Shield, the celebrated theorist Avison lived in the neighbourhood, and he enjoyed the great advantage of receiving lessons in *counter-point* from that profound master. Under so able a tutor such a mind as Shield's could not but make a rapid advancement; and having grounded himself in the principles as well as practice of his art, he went upon a musical expedition to Scarborough, whither he was invited by his intimate friend

Cunningham,

Cunningham, the well-known pastoral poet, several of whose songs he had set to music at South Shields, the melodies of which were greatly admired for their expression and simplicity. At Scarborough his talents soon became distinguished; he acquired the situation of leader of the theatrical band, and the principal concerts; and obtained the intimacy and friendship of most of the respectable inhabitants of the town and its vicinity. Soon after the death of his tutor, Mr. Avison, the surviving son of that great master engaged Mr. Shield as leader at the Durham theatre, and at the Newcastle concerts. Returning, at the recommencement of the season, to Scarborough, he became acquainted with Borghi and Fischer, both performers of acknowledged merit, who advised him to seek a wider sphere for the display of his talents; and pressed him to come to London. He therefore repaired to town; and these gentlemen made so favourable a report of his abilities to Giardini, then leader at the Opera-House, that it procured him an engagement in that orchestra; and Mr. Cramer was so sensible of his merit, that when that great performer succeeded Giardini as leader, he immediately raised him in the orchestra.

Mr. Shield, on account of the indisposition of Mr. Bulkeley, was one season leader of the band at Colman's theatre. At that time the Rev. Mr. Bate (now Bate Dudley) wrote the pleasant little after-piece of the *Fitch of Bacon*, and in his great partiality to the talents of Mr. Shield, applied to him to set it to music: but Dr. Arnold being the regular composer to the theatre, a delicacy

a delicacy highly honourable to Mr. Shield's feelings rendered him desirous to decline the undertaking. However, Mr. Bate threatening to withdraw the piece unless Mr. Shield were the composer, he at length complied, and to Mr. Bate Dudley's critical discernment, and generous compulsion, the town is in a great measure obliged for its acquaintance with Mr. Shield's high talents in composition. His time continued to be occupied some while longer in assisting at the great concerts; such as Bach and Albi's, and La Motte's, for which only first-rate performers were qualified, when Mr. Harris, manager of Covent Garden theatre, made him the offer of an engagement as regulator of the band, and composer to the house: a situation which he accepted and filled with much success. However, a difference between that gentleman and him, on a pecuniary point, induced the composer not long after to resign his new station.

He now resolved to make use of his leisure, by visiting that region of the melodious art, Italy, a school in which he had long wished to study, and where he made himself certain of quickly giving the *finish* to his talent. In August 1792, he accordingly quitted England, accompanied by the ingenious Mr. Ritson, to whose abilities and industry the public owe the restoration of many valuable productions of the British lyric muse. The first place of consequence at which he stopt on the continent, was *Paris*; whence he went to *Lyons*, to *Chambery*, *Turin*, *Milan*, *Lodi*, *Piacenza*, *Parma*, *Modena*, *Bologna*, *Florence*, and
Rome.

Rome. Nothing worthy the notice of a superior mind escaped his attention at these places; yet music never ceased to be the primary object of his enquiry; nor did the great masters any where remain unvisited.

At Rome he met with Sir William Hamilton and his Lady, whose attention to him did honour to their regard for genius roving in search of science. Prince Augustus also noticed him in the most flattering manner. It was here that he contracted an intimate friendship with that justly celebrated landscape painter, Mr. More, who shortly after died, and left him to lament the loss of a sincere friend and most endearing companion. After receiving lessons every day for two months, and deriving that general information and particular instruction for which he left his native country, he quitted Italy, and took his direct road to England. On his return, he renewed his engagement at Covent-Garden theatre, which did not long continue before another misunderstanding took place between him and the manager, which ended in his entire relinquishment of the situation. He has since been engaged in the prosecution of a work deeply scientific and important; the great object of which is, to facilitate the acquisition of the harmonic art, by simplifying the laws of harmony, and divesting the science of that forbidding complexity which deters so many from venturing into the labyrinth.

The merits of Mr. Shield as a composer are, in a general way, universally known and acknowledged; yet

yet a few remarks on his *particular excellencies* may not be unacceptable to the reader.

His style, generally speaking, is simple, neat, and, though correct, unaffectedly easy. We find the notes of every *part* in their proper and best places, without the parade of intruded learning; and his passages never quit the path of nature in search of unmeaning flourish and *extravaganza*. His airs are generally sweet and attractive; often original, and always illustrative of the poet's idea. His symphonies and accompaniments are, with few exceptions, so incorporated in the melody, in point of affinity and congeniality of character, as to mark his knowledge of their true use and design. His *divisions* are flowing; seldom far-fetched, and not unfrequently formed in the very spirit of the air they are meant to embellish; a propriety rarely found in his contemporaries. His *bases*, though not always the choicest that might have been selected, are respectably arranged, and in no instance, that we recollect, betray the want of information in the established laws of composition. In his overtures we find great variety and readiness of conception. Spirit, vigour, tenderness, and pathos, exhibit themselves in turn; and his *scores* universally bespeak a thorough acquaintance with the powers of the *band*, as well as much judgment in *effect*. The reader, by combining these requisites, will form some idea of the *Herculean* task of good composition; and, by attributing them to Mr. Shield, will do justice to that gentleman's genius, taste, and science.

But

But estimable as Mr. Shield may appear as a musician, from this just comment on his professional merit, he has still stronger claims to approbation from the excellence of his private character. He is a kind husband, an attentive son, and a sincere friend. Tenderness, benevolence, honour, and innocent conviviality, are the predominant characteristics of his heart; and useful intelligence, readiness of conception, and solidity of judgment, form the distinguishing features of his mind.

Mr. Shield has been many years married, and has often been heard to remark that he ought to be the happiest of mortals at home, because he has the best of wives, and that he considers the power he possesses of contributing to the support of his mother as one of the greatest blessings heaven could have bestowed upon him.

The following is a complete list of Mr. Shield's compositions:—

The Flitch of Bacon,	The Highland Reel,
Rosina,	The Farmer,
Lord Mayor's Day,	Love in a Camp,
The Poor Soldier,	The Crusade,
Robin Hood,	The Woodman,
Friar Bacon,	Marian,
Fountainbleau,	The Picture of Paris,
Omai,	The Enchanted Castle,
The Choleric Father,	The Czar,
The Magic Cavern,	Oscar and Malvina,
The Noble Peasant,	Hartford Bridge,
Sprigs of Laurel,	Arrived at Portsmouth,
Travellers in Switzerland,	The Lock and Key,
The Midnight Wanderer,	Abroad and at Home,
Netley Abbey,	The Italian Villagers.

Chorusses, dances, dirges, glees, songs, &c. &c.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE YONGE,
BART, K.B.

SIR George Yonge having devoted these forty-five years past to a public life, is justly entitled to a niche in these biographic illustrations.

He received his education at Eton College, from whence, to complete his studies, he was sent to Leipzig, where, by uncommon diligence, he enriched his mind with much valuable knowledge.

His father, the celebrated Sir William Yonge, was a character well known in the political history of the last reigns. His eminent abilities, and talent for speaking, with the exquisite melody of his voice, attracted general notice, rendered him a valuable supporter of the minister, and procured those honourable situations which have since been possessed by his son.*

A circumstance respecting Sir William's voice, rather uncommon, we shall just notice, which is, that its sweetness of tone continued unimpaired, though he had the misfortune to lose the whole of his teeth. He was an elegant, well-bred man, a scholar, a poet, and an affectionate father. He was not a little proud

* On a great augmentation of the naval and military force being moved for in the House of Commons in 1724, Sir William, then Mr. Yonge, was appointed by the ministry to oppose the powerful arguments advanced by the celebrated Mr. Shippen against the measure. For some particulars of Mr. S. consult Rev. Mr. Coxe's "Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole, 3 vols. 4to. 1798."

of the well-directed application of his boy, sparing no pains to qualify him for that political sphere to which rank, and other propitious circumstances, entitled him to look forward.

His father dying, Sir George Yonge was very early called to act as one of the legislators of his country. In the year 1754, being then just of age, he was chosen member for Honiton in Devonshire: a borough represented by his ancestors for a series of years, and where, from local interest and attachment,* he came in not only independent, but possessed influence enough to bring in the other representative. A person thus circumstanced became worthy of the minister's attention.

During his residence abroad, his time was not wholly engrossed by his private studies. To initiate himself into a knowledge of the world he travelled, and, we believe, some diplomatic minister took him under his patronage.

During his attendance in parliament, many great and important discussions were brought forward, and, as he constantly grounded himself in the argument of the several topics in agitation, we have every inducement to conclude that he voted from conviction.

* This verifies a remark of the late Dr. Johnson's, "that a very rich man, from low beginnings, *may buy* his election in a borough; but *cæteris paribus*, a man of family will be preferred. People will prefer a man for whose father their fathers have voted, though they should get no more money, or even less. This shews that the respect for family is not merely fanciful, but has an actual operation."

In the year 1766 he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

From the year 1754, until the general election in 1796, he continued to represent Honiton; *then* he declined offering himself as a candidate, and, on that occasion, was complimented with an appropriate address from his former constituents, expressive of their regret, and testifying their high sense of his long and faithful services.

Considering his life as devoted to senatorial duties, he has well acquainted himself with the principles of government, and the nature of civil liberty. He opposed Lord North's administration, and, on most occasions, his name will be found as the people's friend, and a friend to every measure that tended to advance the real dignity and happiness of his country.

When the amiable Marquis of Rockingham came into power, he was called on to make a part of the administration; indeed an hereditary claim seemed to point him out as entitled to fill the very honourable station of Secretary at War, and accordingly, early in the year 1782, he was appointed to that place, which was enjoyed by Sir William Yonge, his father, in the year 1735.

In April in the same year, he was made one of the Vice Treasurers of Ireland.

Continuing in the administration under Mr. Pitt, he supported his measures, though we do not think there was any great personal intimacy between them. During that interesting period, when the regency

was in agitation, Sir George stood firm to the party of the minister.

The War Office he held with slight intermission from the year 1782, until the late appointment of Mr. Wyndham.

In 1788 he was created a Knight of the Bath; the manner in which this dignity was conferred, proved honourable to the king, and gratifying to the subject. The expressions of grace and favour with which it was accompanied, shewed the perfect recollection his Majesty had of the series of services rendered by his father and himself.

In the war department his assiduity was conspicuous, and his exertions, not confined to the mere mechanical routine of office, displayed abilities which proved him perfectly qualified for the post he filled.

On his resignation of the Secretaryship, he was appointed Master of the Mint; which office he resigned in 1799, and was appointed Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, from whence he returned in 1801.

The talent for speaking, so conspicuous in the father, does not seem so peculiarly to attach to the son; nevertheless, on those occasions on which his powers of eloquence have been exerted, he has acquitted himself in an energetic, logical, and convincing style.

Deeply read in what concerns the manufactures and commerce of his country, no one is better theoretically qualified to advance its mercantile interests—with laudable ambition, about six years since, he

was stimulated, in conjunction with most respectable connexions, to introduce machinery, on a most extensive scale, to facilitate the manufactory of wool, &c. at Ottery St. Mary, in Devonshire.

We lament the failure of this great concern, in which Sir George was a great loser; yet, though the county was, previous to this spirited attempt, the most backward in the improvement and extension of its manufactories; yet since that time, several mills, on a less expensive scale, have been erected along its coast, and they have succeeded well.

Public avocation interferes with, but not wholly suspends, Sir George Yonge's correspondence with the contemporary literati, who have been ready to acknowledge the information derived from his researches: he writes with a celerity almost unrivalled, and his style is pure and correct.

Had the subject of this sketch attended as minutely to his private affairs, as he has so indefatigably to public concerns, he might now have been happy in the enjoyment of a spot that was dear to his feelings—

“ His patrimonial treasure, and his pride,”
and have retired, in the evening of his days, from active life, in a manner worthy of himself.

His person and address are elegant and prepossessing; of the former we have prefixed an outline, taken in the year 1790.

When Sir George Yonge has visited the country during the recesses from parliamentary duty, he has been active in advancing the local interests of his county; and, as a zealous and intelligent magistrate,

has

has promoted whatever tended to the benefit of the district over which he presides.

He is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council. He is the last male branch of his family, and has no issue to succeed him in his title.

A. M.

DOCTOR GARNET, M. D.

LATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY IN
ANDERSON'S INSTITUTION, GLASGOW.

DR. Thomas Garnet was the son of a country gentleman, in the county of Westmoreland. After the usual routine of classical education, he was placed under the tuition of Mr. Dawson, surgeon, at Sedberg, in Yorkshire. This gentleman, besides being eminent for his professional knowledge, is reputed one of the first mathematicians in Britain, and, in fact, so great is his celebrity in this department of science, that many young gentlemen of Cambridge, previous to taking their degrees, resort to him, in order to complete their studies. Under this able proficient and instructor, Mr. Garnet laid the foundation of his medical knowledge; and, during the four years he continued with Mr. Dawson, he not only made a considerable progress in mathematics, but also in the branches of natural philosophy connected with them. From Sedberg he repaired to Edinburgh, in order to prosecute his medical studies; and after remaining there four years, took his

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degree

degree in 1788, on which occasion he published an inaugural dissertation, "De Visu." During his residence at Edinburgh he was a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Brown; and so strongly was he attached to the well known system of that eminent physician, that, in defence of it, he wrote and read a paper in the Royal Medical Society, of which he was a member. This essay was so much esteemed, that several of the students transcribed it, and the substance of it, as we are informed, was afterwards published by Dr. Gertanner, in Rozier's *Journal de Physique*, without any acknowledgment.

D'Alembert constantly maintained, that there is no truth except in mathematics; and it must be confessed, if the reference is confined to medicine, his position is not devoid of foundation. The perpetual revolutions in this branch of knowledge, both as a science and an art, the colossal mass of cases and experiments, and the eternal discrepancy of argument and deductions, threaten to detain it in perpetual infancy. The student weary of endless investigation, or intimidated by the stupendous alp of medical research, is eager to escape from the labyrinth of uncertainty, and, plunging into the regions of fancy, grasps some ideal theory, which, after being moulded into shape, he labours to prop by every argument his ingenuity can invent. Under the direction of a mind thus predisposed, the case and the experiment become pleasant and accommodating, and thus the nostrum which was meant to cure, tends only to confirm the disease. These remarks are advanced,
not

not with any intention to depreciate medical inquiry, but with a wish to caution the student against the adoption of hypothetical theories, founded on deductions too precipitately made, and to point out the necessity of acute observation employed without intermission, and of the most wary experiment. It is to be regretted that mathematics, which habituate the mind to a regular train of deductive reasoning, do not generally form part of a medical education.

It would be extraneous to our present purpose to inquire whether the Brunonian system be true or erroneous, *grammatici certant, et adhuc sub judice lis est*. Dr. Garnet published the essay we have already mentioned; and that early production of his pen, with some additions dictated by his maturer judgment, now bears the title of a *Lecture of Health*. Soon after he left Edinburgh he visited London, where he applied himself to the study of anatomy, and attended the practice of the hospitals with that assiduity which constantly marked his character. He had now attained that period of life which rendered it necessary to think of forming some permanent establishment, and, with this view, he took the resolution of settling in Yorkshire. Accordingly, he spent a few months in the neighbourhood of Leeds, during which he analyzed and published his analysis of the Horley Green water, near Halifax. On the death of Dr. Wilson, physician, at Harrowgate, he repaired to that place, and in 1791 published an analysis of the spa discovered lately there in the garden of the Crescent Inn; and in 1792, an analysis of all

the waters at Harrowgate, with an account of their medical properties, and directions concerning their use. This work, which has gone through three editions, is an indispensable *vade mecum* for the valetudinary and the convalescent idler, who resort to that fashionable watering-place; and it had the effect of introducing the author to as much practice as the place and its vicinity could afford. It is now ascertained, by experience, to be a requisite for the introduction of a member of the faculty into the *haut ton*, that the candidate for public favour shall announce himself to the world by a work of merit, and that each successive candidate must attract attention by novelty, or extract applause by the display of superior talents. The happy effect of this rivalry, and ambition to surpass, is the improvement of medical science, and perpetual emulation produces daily additions to the mass of knowledge. In no department of scientific research does the *cacoethes scribendi* so strongly predominate as in the medical.

Although the success which Dr. Garnet acquired, by the publication of the last mentioned work, was the greatest that could be in the situation which he then occupied, the extension of his fame naturally expanded his expectation. At Harrowgate, as at every watering-place, the crowd of company is only for three or four months in the summer, after which there is a total blank—no society; and, what is more serious to a medical man, no practice during winter: these considerations induced Dr. Garnet to form a design of leaving Britain, and to try his fortune in a foreign

foreign country; from which design, however, he was happily diverted. In 1795 he had married a young lady from Berkshire, with whom he had become acquainted at Harrowgate, and whose amiable disposition endeared her to all who knew her. From the flattering reception Dr. Moyse had received in America, Dr. Garnet, immediately after his marriage, resolved to cross the Atlantic; and having with that intent purchased a philosophical apparatus, repaired to Liverpool, in order to embark for America the first opportunity. He purposed to deliver lectures on experimental philosophy, as Dr. Moyse had done; and, if the country proved agreeable, to settle there, but if not, to return in a few years. While waiting at Liverpool for a passage, he was solicited by several gentlemen (and, among others, by Dr. Currie) in the most flattering manner, to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry, and the subscription offered was so liberal, that he felt he could not refuse their request. He accordingly began his lectures at a week's notice, without having leisure to make any preparation, or with any chemical apparatus in a state of readiness. These lectures met with a welcome reception; and, during this course, he began another on experimental philosophy, which was attended by an auditory consisting of several hundreds. Having completed these courses, he received an invitation to visit Manchester, where he delivered, with great success, the two course of lectures he had given at Liverpool. While at Manchester he received an invitation from Dublin, where a still greater subscription

scription was opened, to induce him to visit that capital, and he had thus a prospect of receiving very liberal emoluments, when observing an advertisement relative to the lectureship of Professor Anderson's Institution, he became a candidate. Although this office afforded a permanent establishment, yet, in point of pecuniary interest, he was then in the immediate receipt of much more than the probable income from the lectureship; but a laudable wish of enjoying a situation less dependent on the caprice of fortune, and the means of improvement which a residential situation afforded, induced him to accept of the friendly offers of the trustees. Accordingly, in October 1796, instead of going to Dublin, he repaired to Glasgow.

Most of our readers have heard of Anderson's Institution, lately established at Glasgow; and, as it is so pre-eminently subservient to the interests of science, we consider it a debt of gratitude to its founder to give a detail of its nature and object. About forty years ago, Mr. John Anderson was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy, in the University of Glasgow. In this station he had two course of lectures to deliver, the one styled the mathematical course, and the other the experimental course, wherein theory was illustrated by experiments. Professor Anderson was formed by nature to excel in the latter department, and the qualities he inherited from nature were improved by his persevering industry. His person was graceful, and his elocution flowing and elegant; but as mathematical reasoning does not afford an opportunity

tunity of displaying an oratorical talent, his genius naturally led him to devote himself chiefly to his experimental course of lectures, which he rendered still more valuable by a very extensive apparatus purchased at his own expence. This liberality met with the reward it merited : his experimental course became celebrated, and the number of students, who, at the time of his obtaining the chair, amounted to about thirty, now encreased to upwards of two hundred. His lectures were much frequented by the citizens of Glasgow, and have been regarded as the principal cause whereby that flourishing city has obtained its celebrity for arts and manufactures, and its distinguished station among the trading towns of Britain.

Professor Anderson died in January 1796, and, by his settlement, vested nearly all his property in certain trustees, for the purpose of founding an academic seminary to bear the name of Anderson's University. The principal part of his bequest consisted of the valuable apparatus which he had in his experimental courses, and which was reputed to be the most complete of any belonging to a private individual in Great Britain. The trustees are eighty-one in number, and are divided into nine classes, viz. nine tradesmen, nine agriculturists, nine artists, nine manufacturers, nine mediciners, nine lawyers, nine divines, nine natural philosophers, and nine kinsmen, each class supplying its own vacancies by election. The visitors are likewise nine in number, viz. the Lord Provost, the eldest Baillie, the Dean of Guild, the Deacon Convener of the Trades, the Preses of
the

the Faculty of Physicians, and the Dean of the Faculty of Procurators of the city of Glasgow, the Moderator of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and the Moderators of the Presbyteries of Glasgow and Dumbarton. Four general meetings are held annually, and the nine Managers chosen by the Trustees, for the immediate superintendence of the institution, meet once in each month. At the first meeting of the Trustees, they resolved to open the class of Natural Philosophy, for which their experimental apparatus was so admirably adapted, and, as we have already mentioned, chose Dr. Garnet to the office of Lecturer. Mr. Robert Lothian has since been appointed Lecturer on Mathematics; and as soon as the funds will admit, it is intended to encrease the number of the lecturers until the institution shall embrace every branch of useful knowledge.

The reputation which Dr. Garnet acquired while at Anderson's Institution, induced the managers of the Royal Institution to offer him the situation of Lecturer in Physics and Philosophy, an offer which was the more honourable to Dr. Garnet, as it was entirely unsolicited and unexpected by him. The temptation was too strong to be resisted. He acceded to the proposed terms; and, quitting his respectable situation at Glasgow, came to London, and delivered lectures during two seasons to crowded and fashionable audiences at the house of the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street.

Circumstances, however, occurred, which influenced Dr. Garnet to withdraw from the honourable department

department which he filled in the Institution. He then bought a house in Great Marlborough Street, where he built a large and convenient lecture room, furnished it with a quantity of philosophical apparatus, and, in the winter of eighteen hundred and one, delivered a course of lectures to a numerous and very respectable class of subscribers. In the spring of the following year he began a new course, and was advancing towards its close, when ill health, for a time, suspended his labours. He struggled resolutely, however, with disease, and delivered several lectures when suffering under the severest indisposition, until at length his feeble limbs refused to obey the dictates of his vigorous mind; and he was obliged to remain in his own apartment. The medical gentlemen who attended him, declared his disease to be a typhus fever, contracted in the gratuitous exercise of his profession, and increased by anxiety and over exertion. This malady, in spite of every effort of skill, and every care of affection, terminated the life of this excellent philosopher and amiable man on the 28th of June 1802, in the 38th year of his age.

Notwithstanding his numerous avocations, Dr. Garnet found leisure to communicate to the world a variety of valuable cases and essays, through the medium of Duncan's Medical Commentaries, the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, the Memoirs of the Royal Irish Academy, and the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, of all which learned bodies he is a member. He also published
"A Tour

"A Tour through Scotland;" 2 vols. 4to. *Annals of Philosophy*, Vol. I.; and *Proposals* are now circulated for publishing *ZOONOMIA*, or *Lectures on Animal Life*, in one vol. 4to. for the benefit of his two orphan children; and we can entertain no doubt but that the subscription will be in the usual character of the British nation.

LORD DILLON.

CHARLES DILLON-LEE, Viscount Dillon, was born Nov. 6, 1745.

The family from which his Lordship claims descent is very ancient. Henry, the eighth viscount, in 1693 procured a reversal of an outlawry, and died in 1718, leaving issue Richard, the ninth viscount, who declined taking the oaths required by Government, and died in 1737, having married, in 1720, Bridget, daughter of the Earl of Clanrickard, by whom he had issue only one daughter. Theobald, the seventh viscount, left six sons; and from Arthur, the third son, the present viscount descends. Arthur, who was the grand-father of the present Lord Dillon, married Christian, daughter of Ralph Sheldon, Esq. by whom he had five sons and three daughters. He was succeeded in the title and estates by Charles, his eldest son, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by Henry his brother, the father of the present Earl.

Lord Dillon, though descended from a family which has been distinguished for its zealous attachment to the Roman Catholic religion, has himself been uniformly and steadfastly the supporter of those measures

measures of Government which place a restraint upon the professors of that creed.

His Lordship possesses a very considerable estate in Ireland, and consequently a large portion of influence in that kingdom. He has, however, distinguished himself by an attachment to England, having spent a great portion of his time in this country.

In August 1776, his Lordship married Henrietta, daughter of the late Lord Mulgrave, whom it was his misfortune to lose in December 1782. By this lady his Lordship had issue a son and daughter. The former, Henry Augustus, was born October 28, 1777; and the latter, Charlotte, on Feb. 17, 1780.

Lord Dillon has been, from the first proposal of the union of Great Britain and Ireland, a strenuous supporter of that great public measure.

Lord Dillon is unhappily to be classed among the numerous band of mourners who have cause to retrace with horror the dreadful progress of the French Revolution. Among the many human sacrifices which will for ever stain the annals of that period of European history, the death of his Lordship's brother Arthur is to be recorded. He was guillotined at Paris on the 13th April 1794, in the forty-fourth year of his age.

In private life Lord Dillon is characterized by the amiable qualities of benevolence and humanity; and is particularly esteemed by his numerous tenantry as a good nobleman, and a humane and liberal landlord.

RIGHT

RIGHT HON. ROBERT STEWARD, COMMONLY CALLED

LORD VISCOUNT CASTLEREA,

(FORMERLY CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE IRISH VICEROY.)

THIS is one of those singular men, who, before they attain manhood, lay by the attributes of youth; who leave behind them at school, the levity and folly, the unsuspecting openness and thoughtless generosity of unexperienced age, and come into public life fortified with all the cool caution and prudent reserve which usually are bought but by experience.

Lord Castlereagh is the eldest son of the Earl of Londonderry. Before his lordship had reached his twenty-first year, he was returned Knight of the Shire for the County of Down. The election, in which he was supported by the wealth and influence of his father, lasted for upwards of three months, and is reported to have cost him upwards of 30,000*l*. He was not long in Parliament before he tried his senatorial talent: the first occasion of importance which occurred for a display of his political knowledge or rhetorical powers, was a debate on the question, whether Ireland had a right to trade to India, notwithstanding the monopoly of the British East India Company. On this question, his Lordship (then called the Hon. Mr. Steward, Lord Londonderry being at that time but a Baron) ranged himself with the popular party, and delivered a speech in support of the affirmative of the question, in which,

though

though he displayed the hesitation, the confusion, and the forgetfulness of a young speaker, yet gave proof of possessing considerable knowledge and a sound understanding. Opposition exulted in this supposed accession to their strength, and endeavoured to secure it by paying to the genius, eloquence, and wisdom of Mr. Steward, the most flattering compliments. It was soon known, however, that Mr. Steward had entered on public life with far other views than that of attaching himself to a party, whose numbers and power were every day dwindling into insignificance, before the increasing and triumphant influence of the Castle; or that of seeking unsubstantial popularity, by voting uniformly against those who had honours and wealth to bestow. For a few sessions, indeed, he did vote generally with the opposition, but even on those occasions the reasons on which his votes were founded, so far as those reasons were explicitly declared, proved him to be rather the hesitating and undecided friend of the Court, than the warm and sincere supporter of the popular cause. Mr. Steward started into public life, gifted, though yet a boy, with the most marked talent at keeping himself disencumbered with explicit avowals of political principles; a coy politician, he coquetted between the minister and the public; neither could reckon on him as a friend, nor would he give either reason to believe, but that, if properly wooed, he might, in time, be won. The growing discontents of the people, and the gradual development of their purposes, at length made it necessary

for his Lordship to assume a more decisive character; accordingly, when the system of *strong measures* was adopted by the Irish administration, in order to silence discontent by terror, or to extinguish it in blood, we find Lord Castlereau among the warmest of its friends. On the accession of Lord Camden to the Irish Viceroyalty, his Lordship was raised to the honour of a place in the Irish Cabinet, and was honoured with a high degree of the confidence of Lord Camden, partly, perhaps, on account of the family connexion between his Lordship and the Viceroy; * and partly, no doubt, on account of his talents, which were useful to government. On the illness of Mr. Pelham, his Excellency's chief secretary, Lord Castlereau was appointed to discharge the duties of that office until Mr. P.'s recovery; and on that gentleman retiring, either in consequence of continued ill health, or a disinclination to undergo the fatigues and anxiety of so arduous a situation, at a time of so great danger and difficulty, Lord Castlereau was officially declared chief secretary to his Excellency, in Mr. Pelham's room. In this office, his Lordship conducted himself, for so young a man, with considerable ability. In the troubles of 1798, he displayed much fortitude, indefatigable assiduity, and great steadiness. But his conduct has also been marked by an inflexible severity, rarely found to accompany the ingenuousness of youth. His manners, though courtly and high, are charged with being

* An affinity between the family of Lord Londonderry and Lord Camden by marriage.

haughty and supercilious ; and it is observed of him, that, forgetting he was an Irishman when he became a minister, he no sooner set his foot within the threshold of the council-chamber than he outstripped all his predecessors, though English courtiers, in the promptitude and zeal with which he seconded the views of the British Cabinet on his native country. It was certainly not expected, that from an Irish Parliament would have been first made to an Irish Ireland, and to reduce the nation, by whom and for whom they legislated, into a dependant province on another country. The first proposal, however, of this measure, by my Lord Castlereagh, was received with a degree of indignant scorn, which marked either that the Irish Parliament had more of public virtue than my Lord Castlereagh and his friends attributed to them, or that his Lordship was but little skilled in that parliamentary management which constitutes, it is said, the chief branch of his official business.

Lord Castlereagh, a few years since, married a very amiable and beautiful woman, by whom he has no children. The person of Lord Castlereagh is tall, thin, and distinguished by an air of elegance and fashion which bespeak his rank. His voice is full and sonorous, but admitting of little variety. As a public speaker, notwithstanding an assumption of great gravity and great importance, he ranks but in the second class. An excellent education seems rather to have created than improved his powers.

DR. ADAM FERGUSSON.

THE writer of the following article is a native of the same village that gave its illustrious subject birth; is himself well acquainted with Dr. Fergusson, and has possessed the best opportunities of knowing his history from the beginning. However feeble, therefore, the *execution* may be, he can vouch for the *authenticity* of the narrative.

MR. ADAM FERGUSSON sprung from the respectable family of Dunfallandy, in the highlands of Perthshire; was minister of Logierait, in the presbytery of Dunkeld. The youngest of a numerous family of children, by a lady of Aberdeenshire, whom he married, was Adam, born in 1724, at the parsonage house. Adam received the rudiments of his education at the grammar school of the village, assisted by his father, who was himself an excellent classical scholar, and bestowed on the tuition of his son, the greater part of the time which remained after the performance of the laborious duties of a very extensive parish. Perceiving the talents of his son, even at that early age, to be very strong, Mr. Fergusson determined to send him to a seminary, where, in emulation, there would be the most powerful incentives to call forward the energies of his mind. The school of Perth, the county town, was then in very great celebrity, under the direction of Mr. Martin, considered as the Busby of Scotland. Mr. Martin was not merely an accurate scholar and expert teacher

of Latin and Greek, but a man of profound discernment into the human character. Young Fergusson soon attracted the master's peculiar attention. He perceived that mere grammatical attainment was far short of what this youth could compass, even during his school education; that he could not only apprehend and remember words, phrases, rules, and their application, but could think and reason on the subjects of his study; and display considerable invention. In the usual school exercises on the Latin language, he equalled the ablest of his school-fellows; but in another exertion he greatly surpassed any of his competitors. Subjects were, at stated periods, proposed for promoting the improvement of the advanced scholars, in composition and reasoning. In his essays on such themes, the genius of Fergusson first appeared most prominent. The writer has known several of Adam's contemporaries at school, and also other gentlemen who were educated under the same master, after he removed to the university, and these concur in declaring that the abilities and productions of Adam Fergusson were the subjects of praise, not only while he was on the spot, but long after he was gone. His essays were preserved, and shewn with proud pleasure by Mr. Martin to his literary acquaintances.

In October 1739, Mr. Fergusson was sent to St. Andrew's University, and particularly recommended to the learned and able Mr. Tulideph, just become principal of one of the colleges. At St. Andrew's there is a considerable number of bursaries

(exhibitions), four of which are annually bestowed at the commencement of the session, on the victors, in a competition in writing and translating Latin. The successful candidates are entitled to board at the college table for four years; in the under graduate course Adam Fergusson stood first in the list of conquerors. In Scottish schools formerly boys were instructed in only the rudiments of the Greek tongue, though made so well acquainted with the Latin as to read the higher classics with extemporaneous ease. At College, therefore, the first session was chiefly devoted to the Greek language. So ardently did Mr. Fergusson apply to that study, that at the expiration of the session, he, with little difficulty, could construe Homer. During the summer recess, he tasked himself to prepare a hundred lines of the Iliad every day, and facility encreasing as he advanced in knowledge, he enlarged his performance, and before the commencement of the succeeding term, had read through the whole work. His progress in the essential parts of the Greek language was accelerated by his attention to these exclusively. He considered that tongue rather as a key to Grecian literature than to *metrical* attainments. Indeed, through life, he has never cultivated versification; he studied ancient language merely as the vehicle of ancient thoughts, images, feelings, and reasonings.*

* The writer once heard some Latin conversation, between a very respectable master of an academy near London, esteemed one of the best scholars in the profession, and Dr. Fergusson. Both spoke the language with fluency and propriety in other respects,

In the second session at St. Andrew's, to his classical he added mathematical studies, and soon distinguished himself as a mathematician. Logic, metaphysics, and ethics, during the following years, were added to his pursuits. At the end of his course he was esteemed superior to any of his fellow students, in each and all of the studies we have mentioned. From a gentleman who knew him from his infancy, and attended particularly to his character and its operations during the college recesses, and who was himself very competent to mark the progress of mind, the writer learned, that at twenty years of age Mr. Fergusson had very profoundly analysed human nature, and was very thoroughly acquainted with the human character.

From St. Andrew's he proceeded to Edinburgh, where a circumstance happened that tended to stimulate the exertion of his powers. Several young men having formed a connection, instituted a small society for literary improvement and philosophical disquisition. Among these, besides Mr. Fergusson, there was Mr. William Robertson, since so eminent for historic effort; Mr. Hugh Blair, so respectable for

spects, but the latter not in point of prosody. It was with difficulty that the master of the academy convinced the learned Doctor that he was erroneous in pronouncing *confēro confēro*. Although he has manifested himself to the world, to be most intimately and profoundly conversant in the history, character, genius, customs, manners, laws, and politics, of the Romans, yet was he inaccurate in their sounds; although few *men* in England could equal him in writing *sense* prose, yet many *boys* might surpass him in writing *nonsense* verses.

elegant literature and composition; Mr. John Home, who has introduced the Tragic Muse to the Scottish woods; and Mr. Alexander Carlyle, the inadequacy only of whose exertions to his powers, has precluded the attainment of the same literary eminence; Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, distinguished for genius and literary exertions among the ablest youths of the circle in which he then moved, as since by his genius, legal and parliamentary efforts, in the exalted station which he lately filled, became a member some years after its formation. In a society of young men of vigorous talents and different destinations, there was necessarily an enlarged circle of subjects of discussion. The variety and multiplicity expanded the mind; the contest of generous emulation sharpened and invigorated the faculties; while the knowledge previously necessary for their exercises, and the examination it was to undergo, increased extent and accuracy of attainment, and produced the habits of investigation. The members of the society, in whatever particulars they might severally differ, agreed in being informed, just, and able reasoners.

In his private studies, Mr. Fergusson, at Edinburgh, devoted his chief attention to natural, moral, and political philosophy. His strong, enquiring, unprejudiced mind, versed in Grecian and Roman literature, rendered him a zealous friend of rational and well-regulated liberty. He was a constitutional whig, equally removed from republican licentiousness, and tory bigotry. Aware that all political establishments ought to be for the good of the whole people,

people, he wished the means to vary in different cases, according to the diversity of character and circumstances; and, convinced with Aristotle, that the perfection or defect of institutions in one country, does not necessarily imply either perfection or defect of similar institutions in another; that restraint is necessary in the inverse proportion of the general prevalence of knowledge and virtue. These were the sentiments he cherished in his youth; these are the sentiments he cherishes to this day.

To divinity he applied so far as to comprehend the details, general nature and tendency of the christian system; and to understand the evidence on which it was founded, without wasting his time in the uninteresting and uninteresting frivolities of controversial theology.

In 1745, Mr. Murray, brother to Lord Elibank, applied to Mr. Fergusson to be his deputy as chaplain to the 42d regiment, then recently raised. Mr. Fergusson gladly embraced the offer; but from his age and standing, especially the latter, there was an obstacle to his immediate ordination. By the rules of the church of Scotland, a candidate for orders must have studied divinity six years before he is proposed for trials as a probationer. An exception is made in the case of gentlemen who understand the Gaelic language. The number of these being comparatively few, they are permitted to be proposed after having studied four years. Mr. Fergusson had only studied two. A presbytery would have incurred censure by ordaining a gentleman of
his

his standing. An act of the General Assembly was therefore necessary, and this was procured *speciali gratia*, on the testimony of the professors, under whom Mr. Fergusson studied, who concurred in giving such a character of the young gentleman, that the Assembly admitted him to be an exception to the general rule, and ordered him to be taken on trials. Having joined the regiment, he continued with the corps during the remainder of the war, and was highly esteemed and respected by the officers and soldiers. This employment presented to Mr. Fergusson, MAN in a *different situation* from those which scholars have in modern times had an opportunity of contemplating. The learned and able General Melville, when expressing his regret, that the portions of history devoted to military narrative and description, are frequently inferior to other parts, and inadequate to the subject, assigns as a reason, that few scholars are soldiers and few soldiers scholars.* Mr. Fergusson bestowed particular attention on the acquisition of military knowledge; and it is probably owing to the time he spent in the army that his exhibitions of the military character, and operations in his Roman History, are no less particular, as well as masterly, than his moral and political nar-

* This observation, formerly perfectly just, now, happily for the service, does not apply with equal force; we mean in the *regular* troops, in which general knowledge is now added to professional skill; in the *volunteer* corps, laudable as is their object, instances too often occur of their purpose being in a great measure defeated by an improper choice of men to be their officers, who are neither *soldiers nor scholars*.

natives and exhibitions. One great excellence in his Roman History may be traced to his chaplaincy. Deeply acquainted with ancient manners, having a strong and great mind, Mr. Fergusson, in his moral estimates, affixes a very high value to heroism and magnanimity, when exerted under the direction of wisdom in the cause of justice. Hence, the military character is, in his mind, a subject of great estimation. The life of a soldier he considers as frequently calling forth the most powerful energies of the head and heart. The regiment to which he belonged, Lord John Murray's Highlanders, in that war in which Britain was engaged for repressing the ambition of despotic France, particularly distinguished itself.*

Mr. Murray having retired from his office, Mr. Fergusson was appointed principal chaplain. Returning, after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, to Scotland, he spent some years either at his father's, in Edinburgh, or the environs, enjoying the company of many of the friends of his early years, who were settled in or near the capital. When at his father's, he had a peculiar pleasure in reading in the fields. There is near Logierait a beautiful green, in the brow of a high hill, sheltered by rocks from the north and east, commanding a most delightful and romantic prospect to the west and south-east, and, on some points, defended from the sun as well as the winds, called the *Green Gate*, or Walk. There Mr. Fer-

* Especially at Fontenoy and in Bergen-op-Zoom.

gusson, during the summer season, often spent the greater part of the day.

He afterwards rejoined his regiment, and increased in the estimation of that gallant corps, as his genius and learning became matured. About this time he applied for the living of Caputh, near Dunkeld; but fortunately for him, the Duke of Athol, the patron, bestowed it on another candidate. Had Mr. Fergusson succeeded, that wisdom and philosophy which has so much enlightened the world, might have been wasted in an obscure corner, where there were none to comprehend or relish its excellence.* Soon after this attempt he lost his father, and appears to have had no farther thought of a living in the church, as he did not apply for that of Logierait, though somewhat more lucrative than Caputh.† Indeed the cast of his mind, or, more properly speaking, his habits of composition were little fitted for a popular audience. He had early imbibed a great portion of the spirit of the stoic philosophy. He could not altogether be

* In the very same presbytery, there are now three clergymen of uncommon talents: one of them of *very* uncommon talents, who, for forty-five years, has been confined to an inconsiderable living, though, in point of genius and learning, not inferior to the illustrious Robertson.

† His father, when he found his end approaching, from a knowledge of his son's determination, urged Mr. (now Dr.) Thomas Bisset, son of a deceased friend and brother clergyman, to make application, as a vacancy must soon take place. This was accordingly done; a promise was obtained from the Duke of Athol for the gentleman in question, who holds the living to this day. Dr. Robert Bisset, of Sloane-street, is that gentleman's eldest son.

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said to be a stoic, but was and has uniformly been a peripatetic, with a strong bias to stoicism. His sermons were profound moral essays, exhibiting a philosophy, compounded of that of Aristotle and of Zeno, and, consequently, were beyond the comprehension of the majority of hearers. Indeed, in point of popularity, Mr. Fergusson was very far surpassed by common-place declaimers of fanatical rant about faith and grace, to the exclusion of virtue; thunderers who could work on the fancy by terrible images, or flippant pretty spouters, who could tickle the ears with melodious nonsense.* There was, and we believe there is still, a practice in Scotland, that originated in the conventicles; at the administration of the Lord's Supper, the clergy met in clubs at the place where that holy rite was performed. Their respective parishioners followed them; and, from ten in the morning till six in the evening, were entertained with sermons † delivered from a place which they styled a *tent*, viz. two sledges, covered with canvas, standing against each other, and joined by a cross bar. Standing at this bar, the ministers delivered sermons in which reason was of less consequence than roar-

* There was, in the lowland part of Perthshire, some years ago, a clergyman so eminent in the pulpit for the exertion of his musical powers, that, when he pronounced the word *Cappadocia* the women began to sob; but when, with the true Caledonian circumflex twang, he brought out *Mesopotamia*, there was a general concert of affliction.

† These are the meetings which the poet Burns has described with such humour, as tending not only to popularity but popula-

ing; the chief praise being bestowed on him who had the strongest lungs. Mr. Fergusson not being eminent for the loudness of his voice, never distinguished himself at these exhibitions. Concerning Mr. Fergusson's sermons, we shall take the liberty of copying an anecdote formerly inserted in a periodical publication. "Always benevolent, Mr. Fergusson assisted his friends with his purse, as far as it went, and with his genius, which was infinitely more extensive. Sometimes he lent or presented sermons to his friends. One of these one-day preached a very profound discourse on the superiority of personal qualities to external circumstances, that shewed a very thorough acquaintance with the doctrines of Plato and Aristotle. The clergyman in whose church the gentleman delivered the sermon, was at first greatly surprised at hearing such observations and arguments from a worthy neighbour, whom he well knew to be totally unacquainted with the philosophy of Plato, or any other, ancient or modern. When service was over, he paid the young man very high encomiums on his discourse—that it really much exceeded the highest expectations he had ever entertained from the talents of the preacher. The gentleman told him honestly, that he knew very little about these things himself, but that he had borrowed the discourse from his friend Mr. Adam Fergusson."

Mr. Fergusson, in the year 1757, left the 42d regiment, procuring the appointment to his nephew, Mr. James Stewart, since dead, while another nephew, Captain Adam Stewart, now a gentleman of
great

great property and consideration in Perthshire, was appointed lieutenant and quarter-master. Mr. Fergusson, whose manners were those of a polished and accomplished gentleman, was extremely liked in his native country, both by those who could judge in some degree concerning his abilities, and by others who were not competent to that task. Lord John Murray,* in particular, who fancied himself a very great admirer of Mr. Fergusson's genius and learning, often spoke of it with as much confidence as if he had comprehended its nature and extent, and used to call himself the first patron of the learned Mr. Fergusson.

On leaving the regiment he became private tutor in the family of Lord Bute, in which situation he continued till the year 1759, when the professorship of natural philosophy, in the University of Edinburgh, being offered to him, was accepted. Had he continued in the family of Lord Bute till the accession of his present Majesty, it is probable he might have attained some important office in the state. In-

* Cadet of a noble family in that country, of which the younger members have, with little interruption, since the Union, been representatives of the county of Perth; less eminent, indeed, for political knowledge and science, and oratorical powers, than for the rigid impartiality with which they have uniformly adhered to the minister for the time being. One of these senators was hardly ever in a minority but once; when, after having voted with Mr. Fox for his *East India Bill*, the majority for the coalition beginning rapidly to decrease, he thought it high time to join Mr. Pitt, and voted for his *East India Bill*.

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stead of an eminent literary character, he might have become an eminent political character. He himself did not regret his different destination; and though the elegance of his address fitted him for a court, his penetrating sagacity, powerful understanding, and extensive knowledge, practical as well as speculative, qualified him for the cabinet; yet was he himself more disposed to the research and contemplation of the closet. Of modern writers, none occupied his attention so much as Montesquieu. He was peculiarly conversant with the study of human nature. He investigated intellect and affection, carefully rejecting hypothesis, and adhering to phenomena.

In 1764 Mr. Fergusson was appointed professor of moral philosophy, and from that time taught what he before so completely learned. He now formed a plan of lectures, which we shall consider more minutely when we come to the publication of his works on moral and political science. What we shall here say of it may be compressed in a few words: he thoroughly analysed and investigated the nature of man; thence deduced his duty in the various relations of social, civil, and political life, with the sources and sanctions of his duty.

In 1767 he published his *Essay on Civil Society*. The object of this work is to accompany man through the several steps of his progress, from his first rude efforts in policy and art; to mark the human mind advancing gradually from the perceptions of sense to the general conclusions of science; from the opera-

tions of sentiment and reason, to the heights of moral and political science and practice; to exhibit barbarity refining into politeness, and the savage into the philosopher. The work is divided into six parts, and each part subdivided into sections. In the first part, our author considers the question relating to the state of nature, and the principles of self-preservation, of union among mankind, of war and dissension, intellectual powers, moral sentiments, happiness, and national felicity. The history of rude nations is the subject of the second part, and those of policy and arts of the third. In treating of arts and policy, he considers the influence of climate and situation, national objects in general, and establishments and manners relating to them, population and wealth, national defence and conquest, and civil liberty; concluding with a short history of arts and literature. In the fourth part he considers the consequences that result from the advancement of civil and commercial arts. In the fifth he treats of the decline of nations, and in the sixth of corruption and political slavery. In executing this great plan of enquiry into the history of man, in all the varieties, progressions, and declensions of society, the author had full scope for exerting a powerful and profound genius operating upon an extraordinary accuracy of extent in historical and philosophical knowledge. The accession to moral and political literature and science from this work was, by the ablest periodical critics, and men of erudition in general, allowed to equal that of any of

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his contemporaries in Scotland. The author was now ranked among the first literati in his country.

Mr. Fergusson, whom, as he about this time received his degree of doctor of laws, we shall henceforward call Dr. Fergusson, now became intimate with all the eminent scholars about Edinburgh, and many of those in London. Of the young men of talents who most highly regarded our author was Mr. Henry Dundas, who has ever since entertained a distinguished personal regard for the Doctor.

Soon after the production of this work, he visited his native village of Logierait, and felt great delight in going over the various scenes of his puerile amusements and juvenile pursuits. He gratified the villagers by his perfect recollection of themselves and their families; they found their personal importance dilate by holding a place in the remembrance and attention of one whom they heard to be among the first men of the age, and their provincial and local pride to swell, when they reflected, that in this eminent man they saw an Highlander of Strathtay, and their own parish. Their pleasure was enhanced by the consideration of those of his virtues which they could themselves comprehend—his benevolence, his affability, his agreeable and condescending manners: and farther, by viewing in him the son of a clergyman whose pastoral and parental care they for more than forty years had experienced.

The same year Dr. Fergusson married Miss Burnet,

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an amiable and sensible young lady of Aberdeenshire, and niece to the distinguished Dr. Black.

The moral philosophy chair of Edinburgh was yearly rising in estimation and importance. It is generally allowed, that no lessons could be better adapted for forming the mind to habits of investigation, research, and reasoning, invigorating the powers, and enlarging the comprehension of the understanding, liberalising the sentiments, improving and directing the affections of the heart. His *Institutes*, or *Synopsis of Lectures*, published about this time, served as a compend or text-book to his students, and to others presented a general chart of science previous to the particular delineation of human nature and moral philosophy.

From 1767 to 1773 Dr. Fergusson remained chiefly in Edinburgh, and on a farm with which he amused himself in the vicinity. Difference of opinion on various important points, religious, moral, and political, did not prevent him from cultivating the acquaintance of David Hume, then returned to the capital of his native country. Some real or pretended zealots, from this intercourse, so natural between two great and liberal minds, though not viewing every subject in the same light, imputed to Dr. Fergusson a sympathy in religious opinion; an imputation to which his elevated views of rational religion, and its foundation in the attributes of the Supreme Being, are the best answer. This was, indeed, a species of charge then not unusually made by ministers of the Church of Scotland against some

members of their own body; and those among the first for learning and genius. Persons by no means distinguished for acuteness in other things, were extremely sharp-scented in points of heresy; at least, when any appearance of it could be charged to men of transcendant ability. Against genius, knowledge, and wisdom, they tried to make heterodoxy a *set-off*, without establishing the justness of the *items*. Debiting the adverse party's account with his alleged heresy, and taking credit to themselves for their own orthodoxy, they fancied they had balanced accounts; and thus a contemptible bigot might suppose himself equal to a Leechman, or a Fergusson.

In 1773 his literary renown procured him an offer from the friends of Lord Chesterfield of going abroad as tutor to his lordship on a settlement of 200*l.* a year for life. After an absence of a year and a half, he returned to the professorial chair. At this time the writer of this article had an opportunity of attending his lectures for two courses; they were in such celebrity, that he remembers gentlemen of rank in the literary world regularly attended them. The writer, though then very young, was so deeply impressed with their excellence, that though then not much addicted to study, he took accurate notes both of the general principles and illustrations, and can say for himself, from experience, and for others, from their concurrent testimony, that from no other system of literary discipline, at any stage of their education, they received so much advantage as from the lectures of Fergusson; that from him they learned

the objects of pursuit, and the means of attainment, in moral and political science; so that if they did not succeed, it must have been for want of either the power of investigation, or of its direction to these objects. The Doctor's mode of communicating his knowledge was firm, manly, and impressive, but mild and elegant; he was delicate, but justly severe, in his rebukes to the inattentive and negligent. One day that he was engaged in that part of his course that treated of the practical application of the moral qualities which he had before described, he was speaking on the folly of idleness and inattention to the business in hand, some thoughtless young men were whispering and trifling in the gallery: "Gentlemen," said he, "please attend; this subject peculiarly concerns you." The youths, though they had been inadvertent, far from being devoid of either apprehension or sensibility, were much more ashamed and sorry than if called to order by imperious vociferation.

The Doctor proposed, periodically, themes for discussion to his pupils. In one of these exercises the writer recollects that Lord Maitland (now Earl of Lauderdale), peculiarly distinguished himself by an Essay on Travelling, which, with great acuteness and ability, displayed the advantages resulting to a discerning and able mind, from contemplation of man in various species of society, and their diversities of political institution and civil manners. His lordship, who could not then be above eighteen, inspired both his master and his fellow-students with a high

opinion of his talents, an opinion which the exertions of his manhood, whether politically agreeable or disagreeable to either, tended most powerfully to confirm.

In 1776 Dr. Fergusson answered Dr. Price's production on Civil and Religious Liberty. The ground on which our author differed from the learned Price was the inapplicability of his doctrines to society, and to imperfect man, as known from experience. He does not, however, fail to manifest a very high respect for the talents of his antagonist, and a candid opinion of his intentions.

Meanwhile the Doctor was preparing for the public a more laborious and greater work than any which he had before presented to the world. To an ordinary reader the Roman History would have appeared exhausted; the mind of Fergusson viewed it in a different light, and as replete with materials for moral and political instruction. In 1778 his work underwent an interruption, as he was requested to become secretary to the five commissioners sent out for the purpose of offering terms of peace to the Americans. The result of this proposed negotiation is too generally known to require political notice. Returning home, he resumed the charge of his class, and continued his attention to the history of Rome. In 1782 he gave to the world that work, which may well be styled the philosophy of Roman History. His object was the same as in the Essay on Civil Society—to present man as he was known from history to have always conducted himself. To appreciate the value

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of Fergusson's Progress and Termination of the Roman Republic, it is necessary to consider what was wanting to this momentous subject. The labours of former writers, a great part of Livy's History, and the whole of Sallust's General History, have been lost. Polybius, valuable and important as his work is, as far as it has been preserved, being both imperfect and confined to particular periods; the great Biographer of antiquity having treated of Roman affairs in only detached portions, so far as they illustrated the LIVES of his subjects, and even all those not being entire; there is extant no such entire history of Rome, from any ancient writer, as to exhibit the clear unbroken series of events, of effects and causes. In both ancient and modern times, general views of the constitution and government of Rome have been delineated by writers of ability, especially by Polybius and Montesquien. These served as the basis of political theories, and enlarged the stock of political knowledge and science; but did not constitute a Roman history, displaying not only principle, but operation and consequence. In modern times several books have been published, professed to be histories of Rome; but not laying before us the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the Roman Republic, in that masterly and instructive manner in which Gibbon presents to us the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. This was the deficiency in literature, to supply which Dr. Fergusson undertook his work. In exhibiting Roman character and action, the author presents to us every where rise, progress, operation, and effects. In the mili-

tary history we see the causes that made the Romans soldiers; and the improvements produced by steady and persevering policy, in arms and in tactics, by the advances of experience, from their first contests with the different neighbouring hordes of barbarians to the perfection of the military system under Julius Cæsar. In his political reviews we have a similar series; and, through the intermediate links, are fully able to see the connection between the first and the last, to mark processes, and comprehend results. The same observation holds as to the moral characters of the Romans, from the times of Cincinnatus and Fabricius, to those of Catiline and Clodius; while virtuous, the Romans were free and flourishing; their vices made them the slaves of a ferocious despotism. These are the great lessons which the principles and details of Dr. Fergusson's history teach. Equally masterly in the display of individual as of national character, he probes both to the bottom. Allowing to Julius Cæsar just and full credit for his extraordinary talents, he, with the generous indignation of a free man, reprobates exertions that enslave mankind.

In 1784 Dr. Fergusson resigned the moral philosophy chair, and retired on the salary of the mathematical, which was now taught by Mr. John Playfair, one of the most profound scholars of the age. Mr. Dugald Stewart was, in his moral lectures, successor to Dr. Fergusson, and has taught the class ever since.

The Doctor's principal literary employment was now in preparing for the press his lectures, which have since

since informed and instructed the public, under the title of the Principles of Moral and Political Science. This work considers, first, historically, "the most general appearances in the nature and state of man." Under the historical head, he considers man's place and description in the scale of being; secondly, examines the characteristics of his intelligence; thirdly, traces the steps of his progressive nature. Having established the fact of man's constitution and condition, he secondly examines the specific good incident to human nature; treats of moral law, or the distinction of good and evil; applies their general principles. These he explains under the heads of ethics, jurisprudence, and politics. The success of his investigation has not been owing merely to the powers of his intellect; but the course in which it was exercised, and the objects towards which it was directed. As to his course, he followed the road discovered and shewn by Lord Bacon, observation leading through induction to general principle; and, consequently, excluding hypothesis, as to the objects of his research, confining his enquiries into phenomena, and their general laws, instead of wasting time in fruitless enquiries after efficient causes.

The political principles and inculcations of this sage are such as naturally arise from the exercise of the understanding, deriving its materials from experience of particular governments combined with the knowledge of human nature; arguing from history, and not conjecturing from fancy. On the question whether all men have an equal right to govern, he denies

denies that any one has a right, but contends that it is useful and necessary for all, that there should be a government of which the end should be the general good, and its principal functions should be performed in those most qualified and disposed to promote that general good. "Prior to convention (he says) every one has a right to govern himself, but *not to govern any one else*. THE GOVERNMENT OF OTHERS, then, *prior to convention*, IS NOT MATTER OF RIGHT TO ANY ONE, although TO HAVE GOVERNMENT, and this purged of every person incapable or unworthy of the trust, IS MATTER OF EXPEDIENCE TO EVERY ONE."

Conceiving government to be intended for the general advantage, he, on the one hand, reprobated the old system of France, as framed, or rather jumbled together, in such a manner as to degrade human character, and make its subjects in general the wretched slaves of capricious and tyrannical despots; but the new system he reprobates as doing much more mischief than that which offended him in the old. He has not, however, actively interfered in political questions of recent discussion.

His Treatise on Moral and Political Science was published in 1793. Since that time he made a tour to Italy, with a view of collecting, in the libraries of that country, materials that he expected would be useful in a new edition of his history. The second edition is now published with considerable enlargements; but, in the discussion of political principles, without any reference to present questions or affairs.

Dr. Fergusson is not merely a speculative moral philosopher,

philosopher, but a practical moralist. He is distinguished for integrity, benevolence, firmness, and those other qualities of the heart that can render the possessor amiable and estimable. Although the salaries of the Edinburgh professors are small, in order to stimulate exertions that may produce numerous and lucrative classes, the generosity of Fergusson often bestowed gratuitous admission. His own income was therefore less than it might have been; a pension from government, however, together with the returns of his works, and other emoluments, rendered him easy in his circumstances, though not opulent. His manners are those of an accomplished gentleman; his conversation is pleasing and simple, though frequently discovering, seldom manifesting, much either of his capacious genius or extensive learning. In company common-place men, fond of figuring away by talking, might, if, as such often do, they rated ability by colloquial displays, flatter themselves that they were superior to Dr. Fergusson. Great as his credit is, at the bank of genius and knowledge, he suffers his cash to lie there, to be drawn for according to his occasions, without displaying his stores for the admiration of a company. He is far from carrying about his whole stock in a card-purse. In convivial parties, Dr. Fergusson, though temperate, is not abstinent; and used to enjoy an agreeable friend with much heartiness. He is extremely hospitable. His place of residence is now Manor, near Peebles, about twenty miles from Edinburgh. He frequently visits

visits that capital; where, and in its environs, he spends most agreeable hours with Mr. Home, Dr. Carlyle, and other nearly contemporary friends, of whom he himself is the youngest. He has several children; of these the eldest son is a respectable advocate, the other sons doing well in other employments; and the daughters very amiable young ladies, living with himself.

Dr. Fergusson is a well-formed, active, muscular man, with handsome features, a fair complexion, and a countenance indicating the qualities of his head and heart. The expression of his light blue eyes is rather thoughtful than animated; the serene rays of intelligence fully overbalancing the want of the lustre that results from mere colour.

There are two sets of literary men in or from Scotland, who look up either to Dr. Blair or to Dr. Fergusson, as their models; the one consisting of those who have devoted their principal attention to rhetoric and fine composition; the other, without neglecting these, have devoted themselves chiefly to history, biography, philosophical criticism, and political enquiry.

MR. WILLIAM HAYLEY.

THE favourite adage of antiquity, that "the qualifications of a poet are the peculiar gifts of Heaven," has been sanctioned by the opinion of the most eminent critics of modern times, though it has not been universally admitted as a position strictly conformable

to the result of philosophical investigation. Certain it is, that many have acquired a distinguished name, as poets, in the republic of letters, whose productions, when nicely scrutinized by those accustomed to argue from effects to causes, cannot be considered as the emanations of genius. Among writers of this description, the subject of the present sketch ranks in the first class. He did not, like Cowley, Milton, and Pope, afford any premature display of poetical excellence. He did not, in his early years, assert his claim to inspiration, and produce any proofs of divine origin; but before he entered upon the arduous task of composition, he read much and thought more. He stored his mind with many valuable treasures of ancient and modern literature; he had, in most instances, the merit of exploring the nature of the subject he was about to celebrate, and of establishing a design in his work, without which it is impossible to proceed with order, or to produce appropriate embellishment.

Mr. Hayley's father, Thomas Hayley, Esq. was the son of the learned Dean of Chichester, and his mother a daughter of Colonel Yates, who was member of parliament for that city. There our poet was born, in October 1745. In his infancy he lost his father, but he received from the tender care of his mother every attention which his situation required. He was placed, when very young, at Kingston school, but his progress in the first elements of knowledge was considerably retarded by sickness, which a constitution peculiarly delicate was ill-formed to bear.

After

After a short residence there, Mrs. Hayley, apprehensive that his health might be still more impaired by too strict an attendance to scholastic duties, had him instructed under the maternal roof, in classical learning. He was then sent to Eton College, where he was more distinguished by his masters and juvenile contemporaries for benevolence of temper and mild engaging manners, than for any manifestation of superior talents, or rapidity of improvement. His conduct, both in the hours of study and of recreation, gave abundant promise of future worth, as an individual of uncommon benignity in private life; but none of those vigorous effusions of original character escaped from him, that burst spontaneously from the fervid mind of genius, and present, in miniature, what the attentive observer fondly expects, one day, to view at full length.

He was entered of Trinity-hall, Cambridge, at the age of sixteen, and was, for the first time, drawn aside from his collegiate course, to celebrate, in lyric song, the birth of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. His composition on the occasion was superior to those of several of the poetasters of that day on the same subject; but such a superiority was contemptible in the opinion of a youth, whose sanguine hopes had induced him to imagine, that his ode would become the theme of national panegyric, and the object of royal patronage. His judgment, soon after, taught him to condemn the vanity of the attempt, and he even cordially joined in sentiment with those who

condemned

censured his maiden essay, by consigning it to ridicule and disgrace.

The ambition of poetical distinction did not, however, forsake him; he felt, that to deserve fame, something more was requisite than a mere desire to excel, circumscribed by the narrow outlines of knowledge, traced out for him at Eton and Trinity-Hall. He found it necessary to collect a copious fund of intellectual wealth, and to enrich his mind with acquirements which he might combine or expand, according to the exigence of his subsequent pursuits.

From the failure of his first attempt to his marriage, in 1769, comprizing an interval of seven years, his attention to the works of the most approved authors was constant and laborious. He minutely studied the matter, the sentiments, and styles of the best poets and orators of Greece and Rome. He followed the progress of the art of poetry, with slow, but sure steps, from the revival of literature in Europe to modern times. He perused and digested the most judicious works of criticism, without sacrificing his own conviction to received opinions, or confining his reason within the trammels of magisterial authority. In the French and Italian languages, he found inexhaustible sources of instruction and fancy, and he became a perfect master of the beauties of Corneille, Racine, Rousseau, Voltaire, Dante, and Tasso. He also cultivated his taste for the fine arts with success, and made himself conversant in the principles of sculpture and painting.

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On his marriage, in 1769, with Miss Ball, daughter of the Dean of Chichester, he settled in the metropolis, whence he retired to his country seat in Sussex, after a residence of five years. His mind found no delight in the gay scenes of fashionable life, and as he fancied himself a poet, he determined, by farther cultivation, to realize the fond hopes which he began, with some confidence, to entertain of his powers. The two first years which he passed in retirement were alternately dedicated to the innocent charms of rural enjoyment, and to the practice of the poetical theory, which he had been so indefatigable in forming. He had, indeed, while in London, occasionally indulged his favourite propensity; and though his pieces were praised by critics of celebrity, who admired his talents, he could not conquer the timidity which prevented his publication of them. Thus he continued to write, and to conceal what he wrote from the public eye.

At length, after repeated intervals of fear and hope, confidence triumphed over every timorous consideration, and he resolved to come forward, not as a competitor for momentary and perishable applause, but as a candidate for noble and lasting reputation. His difficulties in selecting a new and interesting subject were great, but he knew, that whatever topic he might choose, he would have more obstacles to surmount in clothing it in a new and interesting dress. Painting displays attractions which decided his opinion. The subject, though difficult to be treated without a precise knowledge of the art, was
fruitful

fruitful in ideas, both fascinating and dignified, instructive and sublime.

His essay on painting was published in 1778, and Mr. Hayley regularly began his life as an author in his thirty-third year; an age in which the reputation of Pope was in its full blaze of popularity. The criticisms which the writer thought proper to introduce into this work, though in common instances accurate, were, in those of a more minute and refined nature, censured by the artists, whose superiority of judgment, with respect to their own pursuits, will hardly be contested. The diction is, in general, adequate to the matter. It is perspicuous, flowing and impassioned. He seems to have been convinced, that the most captivating substitute for novelty of thought, is sweetness of numbers and richness of versification. It has, however, been blamed for a redundancy of style, that exposes the poet to the charge of not sufficiently varying the construction of his periods.

The poem was deservedly praised, and our author was tempted, by the solicitations of his friends and admirers, to resume his residence in London. Had he been really ambitious of popularity, or desirous of courting the protection of the great, a more favourable opportunity could not have presented itself to his wishes. There was, from the first appearance of his production, an importance attached to his name in the literary world; which he might have cultivated with the patronage of the most distinguished circles, and with the most profitable results to his

1799-1800.

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private interest. But, like Horace, his love for the enjoyments of domestic life, and his fondness for his farm, were not lost in the triumph of his muse. As a moralist, he may be fairly supposed to have enquired:—

“Cur valle permutem Sabinā
Divitias operosiores?”

His essay on history appeared in 1780, and bore decisive marks of considerable improvement. It certainly possesses the fairest pretensions to rank as his best production, and exemplifies the happy art of embellishing character with animated description, splendid imagery, and dignified sentiment. The improvement, however, naturally arose from his choice of a subject more conformable to his general knowledge, and more congenial to the public taste. He had not to discuss the principles of an art, with which he was not thoroughly acquainted, and on which his comments, however just, were liable to be controverted by the caprice and opinions of different masters.

Soon after followed “The Triumphs of Temper,” a work certainly more bold and luxuriant than his former pieces; but his confidence is raised to an excess of daring, and his luxuriance, from the too frequent introduction of allegory, and the studious accumulation of pomp and splendour of diction, is, at times, unintelligible, and often dazzles only to confound. There is, notwithstanding, much to praise, and though his Pegasus flies with a loose rein, he has a grandeur in the irregularities of his flight,

flight, that shews an extensive range of fancy, of which the poet may not, perhaps, have been thought capable.

Mr. Hayley now seemed determined not to linger in the career of fame, and in 1782, the literati were surprised at the publication of the "Essay on Epic Poetry." It abounds in melody of numbers and copiousness of expression, but unfortunately betrays many marks of a mind negligent of the necessary connexion between thought and language. The most fastidious critic must allow it to possess numerous documents of industrious investigation and correct taste, with unquestionable proofs of a profound knowledge of the subject. But this is not sufficient; the professor who delivers lectures on the subject matter of his prospectus, should be careful not to give to his scholars an opportunity to read lectures to him in their turn. He, who undertakes the arduous task of instructing others, should be concise, luminous, and impressive. This excellence has been rarely attained by our author in his Essay on Epic Poetry. He is loose, inadequate, and careless of appropriate style. Had not Cicero, Quintilian, and Longinus, suited their method and terms to their subjects, they would not have been raised to that pre-eminence of authority which they have so long enjoyed.*

* It must be admitted, that the notes to the Essay evince a great fund of learning, and a correct knowledge of different languages.

Of his dramatic productions, we cannot speak in a very favourable manner. His rhyming comedies can only be considered as so many experiments, hazarded to gratify the curiosity of the writer. They are chaste in sentiment, and pure in language; but they do not possess a sufficient degree of wit, humour, and interest, the principal things that could recommend them to public favour.

The tragedies of Mr. Hayley furnish a striking proof that he was unacquainted with the nature of the English drama. The versification is correct, and frequently rich, but the plots are devoid of incident, and our affections are fast asleep, when the bosom should be agitated by the varied passion of the tragic muse. That judgment must have been very erroneous, which could entertain any hopes of the success of such plays, while *Julius Cæsar*, *Cato*, and *Irene*, were discharged from the stage.

His miscellaneous works are both instructive and amusing, and his compositions in prose, though not distinguished for energy or grace, possess both in a degree far above mediocrity, particularly his *Essay on Old Maids*, and his *Life of Milton*.

Mr. Hayley seems to have taken Pope for his model, not with the design of emulating, but of approaching him in a nearer degree than any of his predecessors or contemporaries. Like that great master, he has been minute in his attention to cadences, pauses, and the charms of modulation. But his sentiments are too much expanded, when they ought to be condensed. His amplification is not
without

without magnificence; but he amplifies when a judicious and striking contraction is necessary. Not satisfied with presenting a combination of ideas, in one advantageous light, he goes on enlarging, until its original vigour is impaired, and the languor of the poet and that of the reader become reciprocal. Yet, even here, he has the merit of displaying elegance and grace in his excursions; but he is elegant without strength, and graceful without precision. Poetry too diffused, like empire too extended,

“Exchanges solid strength for feeble splendour.”

His imagery is judicious and sometimes lofty, but it wants those vivifying sparks of genius that brighten into a blaze of enthusiastic admiration for the poet. He is without vehemence and impetuosity, but he is also without inequality and roughness. The creative faculty is not to be traced in his works, but he has made his muse subservient to the noblest purposes; and the name of HAYLEY will be remembered with honour, while polite literature, morality, and taste shall continue to be cultivated, practised and admired.

In private life, the conduct of Hayley is entitled to the highest panegyric. From his earliest introduction into society, he has been remarkable for amenity of manners, integrity of principle, and independence of mind. He has never condescended to flatter his superiors in rank, nor has he courted popularity by those unworthy means, to which genius has been known to prostitute its dignity. An uni-

form friend to virtue and talents, he has, in many instances, rescued innocence from distress, and merit from penury.

The monument to the memory of Collins, the poet, in Chichester cathedral, was designed and the epitaph written by Mr. Hayley, who was a very liberal subscriber towards its erection.

No person lives in more elegant retirement than Mr. Hayley. His grounds at Earham have been laid out by himself with as much taste, as if they had been superintended by Mr. Capability Brown. He now spends much of his time at Telpham, near Bognor, where he has built an elegant cottage, for the purpose of affording his son the benefit of sea-bathing, whose long declining state of health has unhappily involved him in great affliction. Q.

THE COUNTESS OF DERBY.

MANY females have risen from the lowest walks of life to distinguished eminence; some on account of their personal charms, others by fortuitous circumstances, and many by adding cunning to their attractions, but few, very few, by their intrinsic merit, their superior beauty, and their virtuous deportment united.

The stage is a dangerous situation for a young woman of a lively temper and personal accomplishments, especially when her professional excellencies have stamped her a favourite with the public. To
preserve

preserve the line of virtue amidst such various temptations, and amidst numerous admirers possessed of titles and affluence, evinces a strength of principle and a purity of heart that justly call for the greatest admiration. When a person in such a state, and so circumstanced, falls beneath the allurements which continually present themselves, even the virtuous are more disposed to pity than to censure, to excuse than to condemn. But when one thus placed, nobly braves every temptation, resists all the glittering attractions which are held out, and, without paternal guardianship, steers her course through the intricate quicksands, without once deserving a censorious remark from the observant multitude, it is proper to hold such an one forth as an example deserving of praise and imitation.

Mr. Farren, her Ladyship's father, served a regular apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary at Cork; and his brother rose by his merit, to the rank of captain in the 64th regiment of foot. This gentleman was a scholar and an author, and wrote an essay on taste, which was put into the hands of Dr. Hawkesworth, and met with his approbation, but we believe it was never published.

The father of Miss Farren, at the expiration of his apprenticeship, set up in business for himself at Cork, but though he was generally respected, and married the daughter of Mr. Wright, an eminent brewer at Liverpool, with whom he had some fortune; his practice failed, and at length he became insolvent. It must not be concealed, that his conduct in some

respects, proved the source of his misfortunes, for he was fond of company, without being select in his choice, and loved the tavern better than his shop. He had always been partial to theatrical amusements, and greatly delighted in associating with the children of Thespis in his native city. After his retirement to Liverpool, therefore, finding that his father-in-law's circumstances were not adequate to his expectations, he resolved to try his fortune in the dramatic line. His irregular habits, however, continued, and had it not been for the exertions of Mrs. Farren, and the assistance which she received from her friends, the situation of herself and her children must have been wretched in the extreme. Of seven children only two are now living, Elizabeth, the subject of this notice, who was the second, and Peggy, the youngest, who is the wife of Mr. Knight, a respectable performer, of Covent Garden Theatre.

The Countess was born in 1759, and lost her father when she was very young. In 1773 she made her first appearance on the Liverpool stage, in the character of Rosetta, in the comic opera of *Love in a Village*. That theatre was then under the management of Mr. Younger, a dramatic veteran, still remembered in that part of the kingdom with respect, for his pleasantness and liberality. He took Miss Farren under his own immediate protection, became her tutor, and watched over her with a truly parental solicitude. Under such a guardian and preceptor, aided by a quickness of perception and a ductile disposition, she soon became a promising actress,

actress, and the favourite of the public, not only at Liverpool but at Shrewsbury, Chester, and other places where the corps of Mr. Younger usually performed.

At length, that worthy man, who had always evinced a lively concern in her welfare and advancement, recommended her to try her fortune in London. Accordingly she came to town in the summer of 1777, with a letter from Mr. Younger to the elder Colman, at whose theatre she appeared shortly after, in the character of Miss Hardcastle, in Goldsmith's comedy of *She Stoops to Conquer*. That excellent mimic Edwin, made his first appearance the same night, in the character of Tony Lumpkin; and the same season produced also that eminent genius the late Mr. Henderson, a trio of performers seldom exhibited together.

Some of the critics of the day, in their observations on her performance, blended considerable truth with much cynical severity. It may not be unamusing to quote their remarks: "Miss Farren's first appearance on a London stage appeared the most leading figure in this groupe, and from that circumstance, is entitled to some indulgence from the critic pen. Her performance of Miss Hardcastle, though far short of Mrs. Bulkeley, who was the original bar-maid, would not have disgraced either of our winter theatres. Her person is genteel and above the middle stature; her countenance full of sensibility and capable of expression; her voice clear but rather sharp, and not sufficiently varied; her
action

action not directly awkward; and her delivery emphatic and distinct. When Miss Farren learns to tread the stage with more ease; to modulate and vary her voice; to correct, inspirit, and regulate her action; and to give a proper utterance to her feelings, by a suitable expression of voice and countenance, in our opinion she will be a most valuable acquisition to our London theatres."

Her reception was very flattering, and the best judges of acting at once predicted her future eminence in that line. On the 30th of August following, she played the part of Rosina, in the Spanish Barber, which was then performed for the first time, and, by her manner of acting, she contributed greatly to the success of the piece.

In the ensuing winter she accepted an offer from the managers of Covent Garden theatre, where she principally performed in tragedy with the late Mr. Digges; so little was the true bent of her talents at that time understood. Not long afterwards she removed to Drury-lane, where also she stood on the tragic line, though sometimes a comic character was allotted to her. At length a lucky circumstance occurred, which brought her into that immediate sphere in which she was destined by nature to move. Mrs. Abington, the favourite of Thalia and of the town, went from Old Drury to Covent Garden, and left that department, which she had filled with so much splendour, unoccupied. In this exigence, the proprietors fixed upon Miss Farren, who soon proved, if not superior, yet in most respects equal to Mrs. Abington.

Abington. One of the grave censors of that time, in his observations on this change, has given an opinion which may well be adverted to in this retrospect. "The desertion of Mrs. Abington from Drury Lane to Covent Garden theatre, left an open field for the display of Miss Farren's abilities, of which the public had before entertained great hopes. The task, however, was a severe one, perhaps too severe. The manner of Mrs. Abington is not only excellent in itself, but the auditors were so used to it, and remembered it so perfectly in each instance, where the wit, satire, or situation was remarkable, that her successor must have been her superior to have been thought her equal. Truth requires we should say, though Miss Farren has great merit, she was neither; she is yet young, and from the progress she made during the first seasons of her appearance on the London theatres, we have reason to hope, that if she pursues her endeavours to excel, with the same ardor she began, she will become the favourite of Thalia, and one of the brightest ornaments of the stage. Her figure is tall, but not sufficiently muscular; were it a little more *em-bon-point*, it would be one of the finest the theatre can boast. Her eyes are lively, her face handsome, and very capable both of comic and sentimental expression."

The part which she first undertook in the comic line at this theatre was that of Lady Townley, to which she was directed by that sagacious judge and excellent performer, Mr. Parsons, for whose benefit she

she played. From that time she took the whole of Mrs. Abington's characters with equal success.

The applauses with which she was favoured by the public, however gratifying, could not equal the satisfaction which she must have felt at being honoured with the private esteem of the great and the good. The regularity of her deportment, and the modesty of her disposition, procured her the friendship of some of the first characters in the fashionable circles. Lady Dorothea Thomson, and Lady Cecilia Johnson, admitted Miss Farren in the number of their particular intimates; and by this means it was that she attracted the attention of the Earl of Derby.

All the world knows the circumstances in which his Lordship stood with respect to his first Countess; yet nothing but her dissolution could enable her separated husband to give his hand to one so deserving of his love. Miss Farren's profession and origin, and all circumstances combined with it, as well as his own, would have rendered another sort of connexion not very offensive in the eyes of the major part of mankind. But, to the honour of the parties, the breath of calumny could never find occasion to whisper a single remark on the subject of their intimacy, that might put either of them to the blush. As his Lordship's knowledge of her character and turn of mind encreased, his attachment became more rivetted. It was not the ardour of youthful frolic, or the playfulness of a capricious fancy, but
a pure,

a pure, sensible love, grounded upon the admiration of principles as well as of person, and an assurance that in such an union more happiness was likely to be expected than from one of a more pompous nature.

Though neither his Lordship nor Miss Farren were scrupulous to conceal their particular intimacy, they were cautious in the management of it, to give the world no room for censorious remark: and it is observable, that in all their interviews Mrs. Farren was present, who has always resided with her daughter in every step of her advancement.

The following testimonies of Lord Derby's affectionate esteem, are too honourable to both persons to be omitted.

TO MR. HUMPHREYS, THE MINIATURE PAINTER,

ON HIS PORTRAIT OF MISS FARREN.

O thou whose pencil all the graces guide,
Whom beauty, conscious of her fading bloom,
So oft implores, alas! with harmless pride,
To snatch the transient treasure from the tomb!
Pleas'd, I behold the fair, whose comic art
Th' unwearied eye of taste and judgment draws;
Who charms with Nature's elegance the heart,
And claims the loudest thunder of applause.
Such, such alone, should prompt thy pencil's toil;
Of serving folly give thy labour o'er;
Fools never will be wanting to our isle;
Perhaps a FARREN may appear no more.

TO MISS FARREN,

ON HER BEING ABSENT FROM CHURCH.

While wond'ring Angels, as they look'd from high,
Observ'd thine absence with an holy sigh,

To

To them a bright exalted Seraph said,
" Blame not the conduct of the exalted maid,
Where'er she goes her steps can never stray,
RELIGION walks companion of her way;
She goes with every virtuous thought imprest,
HEAVEN on her face, and Heaven within her breast."

At length, on the death of the late Countess of Derby, the way was clear to the perfection of that happiness which his Lordship had so long anticipated. Miss Farren took her farewell of the public at Drury-lane, on the 7th of April 1797, in the character of Lady Teazle, in the School for Scandal, on which occasion the house literally overflowed, and the curtain dropped amidst such emotions as never before were witnessed in any theatre.

On the 8th of May following, she was married to Lord Derby by special licence, at his Lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Soon after, her Ladyship was introduced at court, and made one in the procession at the marriage of the Princess Royal to the Duke of Wirtemberg. Since that time, this noble pair have spent much of their time at their seat in the country, where her Ladyship is considered as a blessing by the tenants and the poor. Among the privileged orders, to whom her Ladyship has been introduced, she is deservedly respected and beloved, as one of the MOST TRULY NOBLE of her rank.

S. K.

MR,

MR. PRATT.

THE interesting subject of our present memoir, was born at St. Ives, in Huntingdonshire, about the year 1749-50, upon Christmas Day, old style.

His father was twice, we believe, high sheriff for that county, and many years in the commission of the peace. He was a gentleman of great worth, good family, and of considerable property; and Mr. Pratt's mother was niece to the famous Sir Thomas Drury. Our author was the only survivor of fifteen children, most of whom died young.

Mr. Pratt received the rudiments of his classical education at Felstead, a celebrated seminary, in Essex, in which county were situated the family estates and mansion house, the name of which was Rockwood-hall. To this was attached the Manor of Abbots, one of the Nine Roothings, or Roodings. The house itself is rendered famous in history, by having been the residence of the Lord Capels, and concealed Elizabeth from the rage of her sister Mary, till she was conveyed in safety away, by means of a subterraneous communication between the private chapel of the mansion and Abbots Rooding church.

At a very early period of life, our author is said to have proved varieties of fortune, and by one or other of these, more especially in a disappointment of a tender nature, to have been counteracted in as various plans of establishment by some family differences. To these may be traced the origin and progress of those misfortunes which overshadowed the morning
of

of Mr. Pratt's life, and which, indeed, too frequently cloud, not only the prospects of the sons and daughters of genius, but impede their future figure and advancement. The embarrassments brought on by these domestic grievances, gave a premature check to all attempts, and more than one were tried, of fixing in the liberal professions, in either of which he was unquestionably endowed with qualities to become eminent, had not his mind been thus rendered irritable, and trammelled by difficulties; aggravated, perhaps, by the impetuous vehemence natural to youth, and more particularly to youthful genius, which threw him upon the world at an age, when, like his own Benignus (a most interesting character in his first work of the novel kind), he was no way calculated to cope with it; no wonder, therefore, if his spring of existence was overcast, or that many succeeding years elapsed before the gloom was dispelled, so as to leave his talents unobscured, and himself free to exercise them to his own fame and the public good; or indeed permit them to shine in their proper sphere. Prior, however, to this period, he is known to have experienced not a few reverses.

Yet, whatever inconveniences may individually have arisen from these transitions and vicissitudes, which it would be painful and invidious to detail, the public are probably indebted to them for no slight share of their amusement and gratification during the past twenty-five years; few, if any of our English writers, having contributed more to the stock of their literary pleasure than Mr. Pratt, whose numerous writings

writings in favour of philanthropy have now, for a longer space even than that abovementioned, deservedly ranked him high in the public esteem, and whose productions must have had a proportionate effect in diffusing that delicacy and liberality of sentiment, and those rich effusions of fancy, which are no less ornamental than beneficial to society.

Mr. Pratt's first essays in prose and verse, were, as is usual with juvenile writers, diffused in private circles amongst his partial friends and admirers; but the continuation of the domestic differences we have alluded to, at length terminated in more serious evils consequent upon family divisions, including the loss of a considerable part of patrimonial property, and much of the remainder was squandered amongst the lawyers, in the progress of a long Chancery suit. These events operating on an ardent temper, and a disappointed mind, directed the pen of our young bard into more public and productive channels, but did not damp the progress of his genius. His performances, however, were, for some years, either anonymous, or under an assumed signature. His first efforts were made in the monthly publications, where they were soon sufficiently noticed to be copied into various other vehicles, till, some years after, such as the author deemed most worthy, were collected, and given to the world in four volumes, under the general title of "Miscellanies," in which is preserved his fine poem of "Sympathy," after passing through six quarto copious editions, with a rapidity equalled in modern times only by the "Traveller"

1799-1800.

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and "Deserted Village:" the delightful versification, benevolent sentiment, and exquisite imagery of either of which, do not surpass what we meet with in Mr. Pratt's poem.

At the time when these performances appeared the author kept a circulating library in Bath; after which he became a lecturer on elocution, and, if we mistake not, was for a short while on the stage, under the name of *Melmoth*. His first-published poetical work of any length, was the "Tears of Genius," occasioned by the death of Dr. Goldsmith, or, a poetical commemoration of the departed English bards—a work as happy in the idea as in the execution. The style and sentiment of each deceased poet is caught, and imitated in this production, with so much spirit and accuracy, that the reader is led to believe they are perusing tributes to, and epitaphs of, the departed sons of genius, written by themselves. This poem, after a very flattering reception in its original form, was, like "Sympathy," preserved in the "Miscellanies," and stands also affixed to a beautiful edition of Dr. Goldsmith's poetical works. Mr. Pratt could not have been more than twenty years of age, on the first appearance of this very ingenious performance; prior to which he printed some smaller pieces of poetry, bearing similar marks of early and advancing genius. These, we believe, were first given in a volume of the old Annual Register, published by Dodsley, while conducted by the celebrated Mr. Burke.

On the death of the English Roscius, our author likewise

likewise offered a poetical tribute to the talents of that great actor, called "The Shadows of Shakespeare," in which the different characters in the works of the immortal bard, particularly such as had derived new lustre from Mr. Garrick's performance, were made to do homage, and address themselves in character, as they mourned over the tomb of their representative. This ingenious poem is another proof of a happy conception in Mr. Pratt, in seizing the subject of the moment, and giving it general importance and stability. Though the quarto editions are out of print, it is amongst the number of republications to be still seen in the author's "Miscellanies;" and to that impression is affixed a very beautiful vignette, by Mr. Gardener, displaying the "Shadows" doing homage, finely grouped, and habited in their respective characters. This poem has frequently been recited on the theatre, and in other public places; and was, we believe, first written for the "Bath Easton Villa," to which the author was a frequent and successful contributor; and, on account of his well-known excellence in reading, wherein he is said to have few equals, not only gave even advantage to his own verses, but to those of many other votaries of the vase.

The next work in the order of publication was the "Sublime and Beautiful of Scripture," which first appeared in two volumes, and, after three successive editions, was comprised in one. It is a kind of commentary and illustration of the most interesting and beautiful narratives of the Bible, which are

presented to the reader in the most pathetic and attractive manner, and affords a pleasing example of the author's abilities for literary criticism. This little volume is particularly adapted to form a part of education amongst the English exercises, and might be introduced into our seminaries with great advantage.

Thus encouraged by public favour, our author, in 1775, produced a work of a most singular kind, under the miscellaneous title of "Liberal Opinions, on Man, Animals, and Providence," which were brought before the public in two volumes, 12mo. at a time, extending in the whole to six—the first two in 1780; but it has since been comprised in four, and with a success which induced the author to lay aside his fictitious signature, and stand forth as its avowed writer. "Liberal Opinions" include the adventures of *Benignus*, which, in more than one trait of mind, manners, and misfortunes, has been thought to bear no small resemblance to its author. This book first discovered to the public that peculiar facility of delineating character, whether ludicrous or pathetic, which Mr. Pratt has since carried to a degree of perfection equalled by few, and surpassed by no writer whatever, without making an exception in favour of Fielding, Richardson, or Sterne.

Some critics, however, have pronounced the character of Draper, in the "Liberal Opinions," to be a dangerous picture, set off in colours too fascinating: but, for having too much brightened the reprehensible qualities of this single object, ample atonement

is made, by a variety of other characters, which are here embellished with the loveliest tintings of virtue and benevolence. Amongst these Mr. Greaves and Benignus are not only to be enumerated with many others as beautiful examples, but may claim a place of honour and admiration beside the most celebrated portraits of the pen; and the poems of the Unfortunate Daughter and of the Highwayman, are each of uncommon beauty and interest.

The work next in succession of publishing, was his well-known "Pupil of Pleasure," a severe but animated illustration, and personification, of the Earl of Chesterfield's famous letters; and it would be difficult to say, whether the text or the commentary most engaged public attention, or, indeed, most divided public applause and censure; many being of opinion they were both equally dangerous, and others asserting that the antidote was powerful enough even to expel the poison. Several pamphlets, and innumerable essays, &c. &c. were at the time published, by way of stricture upon both these performances. In the mean time both increased in popularity and reputation. The most able of the objectors to Mr. Pratt's work, was the amiable and ingenious Clara Reeve, who animadverted on the "Pupil of Pleasure" with much severity as to its moral, though she admitted the elegance of the style. Mr. Pratt's book was certainly written with uncommon fervour; but, as it now stands in the late editions, does infinite honour to the author's abilities, and merits the eulogy of the critic who pro-

nounced, that "there never was a happier thought than thus to personify Lord Chesterfield's maxims and by a natural train of events, in a story that touches every chord of the human heart, demonstrate the pernicious and fatal tendency of that brilliant casuist." The Reverend Mr. Hunter, also, in a series of well written letters on those of Lord Chesterfield, is to be enumerated amongst the warmest advocates and admirers of our author on this occasion.

If, however, any degree of censure may still be thought to attach to the writer of these very interesting volumes, wherein the severest judgment must appreciate the characters of the whole Delmore family, of Fanny Mortimer, and of poor Horace Home-spun (whose sensations on seeing and hearing the drops of rain fall heavy on the hearse of his offending wife, will ever be remembered); he assuredly deserves full credit for removing from all succeeding compositions every thing, that either in fable, sentiment, or character, might carry but a possibility of being misrepresented or mistaken. His "Tutor of Truth," which soon followed, began a proof of this, that has been continued in every performance, whether of prose or verse; and though we trace the like felicity of diction, and the same splendor of fancy, as well as general power over the understanding, whatever could prove hostile to delicacy or morals of any kind has been studiously avoided. The "Tutor of Truth" was *intended*, indeed, as a *contrast* to the "Pupil of Pleasure," or rather the character of Car-

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listle in the one, was meant to oppose Sedley in the other; how then are we to account for its comparatively inferior success? The merit of the story and interest of the characters are, upon the whole, nearly equal; and the morality unquestionably less liable to objections, even if not less objectionable in fact. Be this as it may, our author's Sedley is, what Lord Chesterfield wished to have seen Mr. Stanhope.

Since this, Mr. Pratt's productive pen has proceeded in one undeviating progress, no less chaste in design than beautiful in execution, whatever has been its subjects; and there are very few in the circle of the *Belles Lettres*, of which it has not, in the unwearied and unwearying course of its multifarious labours, presented us with a specimen of that versatility of talent for which he is remarkable. His "Observations on Dr. Young's Night Thoughts," first printed in 1774, display, amidst some puerilities, and not a few inaccuracies of style, a solid judgment and taste for criticism, as well on the beauties and defects of poetic composition in general, as on the sublime though very unequal writer in particular, whose admirable genius was the object of his remarks. These "Observations" were addressed to the celebrated Mrs. Montagu, who had herself, long before, established a never-fading reputation for the critical art, wherein our young author was then only a candidate.

In the year following he gave to the public his second performance of the novel kind, yet of a distinct species from what is in general so called, founded on a benevolent but chimerical sentiment of Mr.

Shenstone. This elegant poet had hinted at the delight he should have had in building up an entire neighbourhood, filling it with inhabitants, and then settling them according to their rank, feelings, and talents. This Utopian plan Mr. Pratt brought to the test in a work which he appropriately entitled "Shenstone Green," in which he created, peopled, and endowed a village on the principles the far-famed bard of the Leasowes had sketched. Our author, in a truly ingenious manner pursued, and in a literary sense *realized* this idea; and while he proved its fallacy, and shewed the impossibility of its being carried into execution, in the present state of society, makes his readers lament that it is only one of those fairy dreams, which, as Mr. Pope says, "beautify our days." The fable and characters employed by the author in bringing about the pleasure, population, prosperity, and ultimate destruction of this little town, which is shewn to be an epitome of the whole associated earth, are extremely diverting in some parts, and touching in others, demonstrating but too plainly on the whole, with what propriety the author, in the second title, has called it the "New Paradise Lost;" and "A History of Human Nature."

About this time came forth the charming poem of "Sympathy," which was immediately received with the distinction it deserved; it seemed to aid the successful efforts of the muse-loved Hayley, in reviving the poetic spirit, which had drooped and languished ever since the death of Goldsmith. This perform-

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ance was read and spoken of in all circles of fashion and science as one of uncommon excellence. It was inscribed to a most amiable character, the Rev. Mr. Whalley, author of a successful play, entitled "The Castle of Montval," performed at Drury-lane theatre. The heroine was most admirably sustained by Mrs. Siddons: "Sympathy" received various honours, prior to, as well as after publication, being introduced to the respectable Mr. Cadell, as its publisher, by the celebrated Gibbon, and ushered in the second edition, which followed fast upon the first, by complimentary verses from the valuable pen of Mr. Potter, the English Æschylus, with a sonnet by the very ingenius author of the "Old English Baron;" and it continues, and will ever continue to afford augmented delight to every reader of taste and sensibility, as well as to increase the reputation of the author as a poet.

The universally admired "Emma Corbet," came forth after the war in America, whose woes, with those of the mother country, it so affectingly illustrates and describes, had raged most fiercely. The time, the circumstances, the subject, and the manner of treating it, all helped to make this work extremely popular; and accordingly, there has, perhaps, not been any thing in the language more read. It soon reached a ninth impression, and has received every distinction both from the pen and pencil. The embellishments of Angelica Kauffman, prefixed to all the two volume editions, are, though on a small

small scale, amongst the finest sketches of that captivating artist.

The expectations formed by the public of our author's power over the tender passions, from the above mentioned performances, and of his poetical abilities from his poem of "Sympathy," were now very high; and it was under these favourable impressions that he produced his tragedy of the "Fair Circassian," founded on the Almorán and Hamet of Dr. Hawkesworth, the author's private tutor, and the first guide of his muse. It had a run of twenty-six nights with scarcely any intermission, and, considered as a first dramatic essay, was a very successful exertion. Few characters on the English stage surpass the Eastern sage; but it may be considered, on account of the preternatural machinery, rather as a spectacle than a regular drama; and while we express our surprise that the author has not again wooed the tragic muse, we marvel much, that in these times of theatrical pageantry, the piece in question, which had perhaps more than enough of glare and glitter, is not revived. At the same time that we allow this production its due share of praise, we by no means consider it equal to several other of the author's poetical performances.

Shortly afterwards were published, "Landscapes in verse," which, though it falls much below his "Sympathy," had considerable success and merit.

But if he fell somewhat short of himself in the last mentioned performance, the Muse of Sympathy shone

shone forth again with additional lustre on another occasion. The intended national tribute of a statue to the memory of the great philanthropist, Howard, is well remembered, and amongst the poetical effusions which were offered at the shrine of unexampled goodness, as displayed by this extraordinary character, our author contributed his "Triumph of Benevolence," which was sent anonymously as a present to the committee appointed to conduct the business of a statue, as well as the receivers of the money for its erection. The treasurers publicly expressed their acknowledgments to the unknown author, who desired the profits might be appropriated to the increase of the fund; and it was given to almost every writer of eminence before Mr. Pratt put in his claim. It was the intention of the committee to have read this at an anniversary meeting, and at the base of the statue; but the modesty of Mr. Howard was equal even to his benevolence, and the whole plan came to a sudden stop. The design is, nevertheless, as honourable to the sensibility of the public, as the poem is to Mr. Pratt, whose *chef d'œuvre* in poetry this production may be accounted.

In 1788 appeared the first quarto edition of "Humanity, or the Rights of Nature." This production may be considered as a continuation of "Sympathy," of which it is by no means unworthy, and every reader of taste and feeling will rejoice with us, that he, who so well sung the "Triumph of Benevolence," has undertaken to vindicate the Rights of Nature, and to inculcate the virtues of "Humanity."

Mr.

Mr. Pratt suffered his pen to lie dormant, from the first publication of his poem of "Humanity," already noticed, for several years, during which he resided chiefly on the continent; but it was resumed, at length, with every advantage, in giving the observations which he made abroad, under the title of "Gleanings," first published in 1795, and of which various large impressions have succeeded. Concerning this performance, the critics were unanimous in remarking, that the author exhibited an example of a species of travellers different from all those enumerated by Sterne, and that they could not but highly approve while he pursued this judicious mode, and found so many lively and pleasant exhibitions of manners, so many amusing and interesting anecdotes, and so many observations and reflections, gay and grave, sportive and sentimental (all expressed in a gay and familiar style), better suited to the purpose, than sentences laboured with artificial exactness. The general idea of Wales, in this tour, is beautifully pastoral, and has, perhaps, more contributed to making that principality the resort of fashion and of travellers of all descriptions, and *publishing* tourists also, than any book that had before undertaken to describe that fine appendage of the British empire: and we are carried from thence into Holland, Guelderland, and Westphalia, with equal success, by this literary magician, who presents us, wheresoever he goes, with gleanings for the heart, and gleanings for the imagination. The stories in this work, whether pathetic or humorous, are of the first order of composition, particularly

particularly such as are addressed to the fancy or feelings of the reader ; such as the " Two Sisters taking the Veil ;" the " Dutch draft Dogs ;" the " Sparrows ;" the exquisite story of the " Merchant's Daughter ;" the " Old Horse ;" and, above all, the story of the " Bird-catcher, and his Canary," which deserves to be placed close to Yorick's Starling ; with a variety of others of no less estimation in the eye and to the heart of the reader. In short Mr. Pratt has here offered to the public, an entertainment as rich as it is various, part of which he has given in an easy conversation style, and all with sprightliness and good humour, excepting the letters, which he addresses avowedly to the affections ; " and there," says the reverend author of the dialogue, " the heart owns him resistless." These volumes contain two beautiful songs, both of which have been set to music by eminent hands ; also a republication of his celebrated poems of " Humanity," and the " Triumph of Benevolence."

The public had not received from Mr. Pratt's pen a novel since his " Emma Corbet," between which and " Family Secrets," first published in 1797, elapsed a period of more than ten years. In the first edition of the last named work, the author denominated it " Literary and Domestic," because the sketches of literary conversation woven into the history, were intended, he told us, as an *experiment*, how far such a plan might tend to exalt the *character* without diminishing the *interest* of this species of composition." " A sale within the year of one of the largest editions that

that has ever been published of any work of imagination, will not," as Mr. Pratt observed, in an advertisement prefixed to the second edition, "be received as evidence of public disapprobation, but of the exact reverse; yet, in compliance with a general idea of the work being too much protracted, and the interest of the story too much impeded, by means of the literary and other discussions, the whole performance appeared under favour of such retrenchments and corrections as either private or public opinion suggested." In pursuance of this plan of improvement, Mr. Pratt has, with an unsparing hand, acted the part of a critic upon himself; such parts of the original work as consisted of literary disquisition and other discussions, not immediately appertaining to the story, have therefore been either wholly omitted, or so occasionally retrenched as to render the history more rapid, and the succession of events consequently more interesting, without at all affecting the original design or deranging the parts. The author carefully kept himself out of sight, and made his retrenchments in such a way that a reader of the second edition in 1798, would scarcely imagine that the first could contain more. The admirers of Emma Corbet, and of these various productions which have been enumerated, and which deservedly procured him an interest in all feeling hearts and polished minds, will here find ample cause to hail his return; for this is one of those books which fastens so strongly on the attention by its interest, that notwithstanding its length, few readers will

will prevail on themselves to lay it down before they have perused the whole. In a word, this is the first production which we have seen of late years, that may be denominated of the *old school*; here is neither ghost, goblin nor spectre; and it is but justice to say, that to the moral delicacies of Richardson, Mr. Pratt has here united much of the humour of Fielding, without any imitation of either. But after all these excellencies, which, though chiefly adopted from various criticisms, we are disposed to admit in their full force, we cannot but think that the performance, as a work of fancy, might still be compressed; for a novel may certainly be as much too strong and powerful, as too weak and flimsy.

On the first coming out of the former volumes of the *Gleanings*, upon his return to England, there appeared in one of the public prints the following stanzas, introduced by a wish that Mr. Pratt would no more alienate himself to glean foreign lands.

Here, amidst the proud profusion smile,
 Admired by genius, and to virtue dear,
 Weaving the flowers that blossom on our isle,
 And bright'ning ev'ry leaf with pity's tear!
 Where merit weeps with "Sympathy" to bless,
 Where vice assails "Humanity" to show
 Mirth's dimpled cheek with modest smiles to dress,
 And snatch from sorrow's breast—the weeds of woe."

With this wish of the author of the above verses Mr. P. seems to have complied in the additional volumes, which are entirely a *Harvest Home*, and to British readers at least, therefore, the more interesting. The author has, in manifold instances,

says

says a learned critic upon his work, shewn himself a faithful delineator of his countrymen, and a generous and manly defender of his country, to which his performance is a tribute no less valuable than *well-timed*. This may fairly be said of the *political* feature of the picture; the *natural* one presents the island in a warm display of its scenic beauty: while those lineaments which are coloured by the affections, and which give the *mind* of the country, are pourtrayed with the hand both of a painter and of a poet. The right chord of the heart is often touched in the right place; and the smiling remark is judiciously brought in to chase away the tear produced by any of the more pathetic narratives. The gleaner has our cordial assent to proceed in *the like manner*, till he himself, after, we hope, yet a long journey, arrive at that place "from whose bourn no traveller returns."

The letters on criticism are certainly not inferior in energy or utility to any in the book: at once playful and serious, and exhibiting equal judgment and delicacy. It is, indeed, a trembling subject, treated with great address. And the poems of the "Summer Tribute to Nature," and the "Address to the Sea," the one remarkable for softness, the other for sublimity, are *chef d'œuvres*.

Mr. Pratt has always avowed a disinclination to engage in the heats of party, on either side, yet has invariably shewn himself to be a warm friend to the good order of that social compact, by which all men are bound to their native country; and on particular
national

national emergencies he has come forward with some well-timed and temporary public offering. In 1797, when our naval disputes ran fearfully high, appeared a letter from Mr. Pratt to the "Tars of Old England." This very animated address to the British seamen, upon their lamentable and unexampled mutiny, which is now almost forgotten in their glory, possesses great merit. It breathes all the energy and spirit of true patriotism; and speaks a language which must affect every heart not wholly corrupted by the poison of insubordination. This ran through six editions in a less number of weeks. In the same year came out, a letter to the "British Soldiers," by the same author, in which he has strengthened the reproof which he dispensed to the seduced sailors, by the judicious panegyric which he has here bestowed upon the unsullied purity of the military character.

It became a sort of fashion for literary people of both sexes to contribute pamphlets and books on national subjects and distribute them gratis; of this plan we believe Lord Carlisle and Hannah More were the first projectors. Our author contributed a small tract, entitled "Our good old Castle on the Rock," intended to prove that a spirit of general union which may concenter the hands and hearts of the nation against a common enemy, is the only way to make "Our good old Castle on the Rock" impregnable. It is elegant, and yet easy to every understanding.

During a period of very alarming scarcity, when
1799-1800. I i "Bread,"

"Bread," the staff of life, was so enormously dear that the "Poor" were almost destitute of food, Mr. Pratt, with a zeal that does honour to his heart, espoused their cause, and exerted his poetical talents in a beautiful appeal to the nation, entitled "Bread; or, the Poor:" which title, in following editions, was reversed, as the state of "The Poor" formed the leading object of the poem. The object and the execution of this work reflect the benevolent mind and superior talents of Mr. Pratt, perhaps as forcibly as any effort of his muse! Whether he be right or wrong in his conjecture of the *cause* of the scarcity, or dearth, of "Bread," his merit in thus pathetically calling the attention of the public to the subject is above all praise.

Mr. Pratt is also author of various impromptus, &c. on temporary subjects, particularly a very beautiful inscription engraved on the monument lately erected in Westminster-Abbey, to the memory of Mr. Garrick, finely executed by Webber.

It remains only to be said, that the virtues are not indebted to Mr. Pratt for his *writings* only: his *life* has been constantly distinguished by an uniform practice and support of the most amiable qualities; and the writer of this article cannot close it, without feeling it a duty of gratitude to state in his own person, and to attest for many others, that Mr. Pratt's disposition to benevolence keeps pace with his beautiful descriptions of it; and that, impelled to the practice of the sympathy and humanity so touchingly painted

painted in almost every production of his pen, he has often been led to a more full tide of good offices to the unfortunate of every denomination, than the dictates of severe prudence might sanction.

J.

DOCTOR HARRINGTON,**OF BATH.**

THIS highly respected gentleman is descended from an ancient and illustrious family, not more distinguished by the smiles of fortune, than by superior intellectual possessions; an interesting account of which may be found in a publication of the Doctor's, in 1768, entitled "*Nugæ Antiquæ*;" being a collection of letters written by his ancestors and their correspondents, in the reigns of the 7th and 8th Henrys, Mary and Elizabeth, Edward the 6th, James the 1st, and Charles the 1st, in three vols. replete with original information and merit. Sir John Harrington, from whom the Doctor more immediately descends, was the son of Mr. Harrington, who married a natural daughter of Henry the 8th, with whom the King gave as dower, the forfeited church lands of Kelston, Catharine, part of Bath-Easton, and Corston, upon which, it is said, he built at Kelston the largest house at that time in Somersetshire. He was a great favourite of Queen Elizabeth's, whom he attended in the tower during the reign of her infatuated and sanguinary sister Mary. She stood god-mother to Sir John, his eldest son, who also became a favourite, from his ready wit, pleasantry, and learn-

ing. He was esteemed the best English epigram writer of that age, and when very young displayed much ingenuity and judgment in a translation of Ariosto, the only one of that beautiful poet till Mr Hoole's, which appeared some years since, and though certainly possessed of much merit, is by no means comparable to Sir John's, to whom, indeed, Mr. Hoole seems much indebted for assistance.— James Harrington, another ancestor of the Doctor's, rendered himself conspicuous in the literary world by the celebrated political romance entitled Oceana. Indeed Genius seems to have had *many* favourites in this family, and the world will certainly allow that her smiles have been continued to the worthy subject of this memoir, whose delicately enriched taste, and superior knowledge in the enchanting science of music have so often and so justly been the theme of public admiration.*

* The Doctor has in his possession some good pictures, and a curious collection of family and other portraits, uncommonly well preserved, of the reigns of Henry 7th and 8th, Queen Elizabeth, James 1st, and Charles 1st. He has an original picture of Queen Elizabeth, when Princess, in the Tower, and of Etheldred Tudor Harrington, natural daughter of Henry the 8th; also portraits of the Lords Leicester and Essex, originals, and two of the handsomest of Queen Elizabeth's maids of honour, in their curious apparel in which they appeared at court on the Queen's birth-day. They were rival beauties, and, on the Queen's giving her preference to the beauty of one of them, the other is said to have died of grief and envy.

The Doctor has also a family seal, the date of the year 1279, belonged to Robertus Dominus de Haverington, Cumberland.

King James the First sent for the Doctor's ancestor Sir John Harrington

Doctor Harrington was born on Michaelmas-day 1727, at Kelston, Somersetshire. He received his education at his father's house, under the tuition of the late Rev. Dr. Fothergill, father of the present Vicar of Twerton, and brother to the late Provost of Queen's College, Oxford. His father's affairs being much embarrassed, his elder brother was prevailed on to dock the entail of the Kelston estate, an act that ultimately proved ruinous to the whole family, for it might, on account of the Doctor's minority, have been preserved to the present family, his brother having died shortly after the business was effected. At this time the Doctor was received by his uncle, William Harrington, vicar of Kingston, in Wilts, and under his patronage entered at Queen's College, Oxford, in the year 1745. During the vacations he lived with his uncle, a man every way calculated to diffuse knowledge and create emulation; and it is most probable that the Doctor derived from him much of that elegance, taste, and judgment, which has so conspicuously shone in his compositions. He was highly celebrated for his acquirements in the sci-

Harrington, to Court, to converse with him, as he heard he was a great wit. "Sir John," said the superstitious King, "what do you think is the reason why the devil deals with old women, so that they become witches?" "Please your Majesty," replied the Knight, "I humbly think it is because the devil delights to walk in dry places."

The King talked much to him on theological subjects, and told him when he left him, "that as he had heard Sir John's wit, Sir John had also heard the King's learning, and bid him report it favourably."

ences of music, poetry, and mathematics; and being a valetudinarian, and his sight much impaired, he often employed his nephew to read to him, a circumstance which, though it was extremely profitable to his mind, must also, at times, have been considered as a laborious task; for such was the greediness of his uncle's apetyency for learning and information, that he would frequently make him read till two or three in the morning, not liking to go to bed before day-light.

It was in his uncle's house, and at the age of eighteen or nineteen, that he composed the universally admired duo of "Damon and Clora." He resided there eight years, during which time he often amused himself in writing poetry, chiefly light compositions. About that time there subsisted a strong rivalry between the two Bath theatres, and the Doctor favoured them with several excellent prologues, epilogues, &c. some of which were spoken by that inimitable actor, Thomas King, at the theatre then under the old assembly-rooms. The managers presented him with a free admission ticket to both houses, as a small testimony of their high opinion of his talents, which they considered of great importance to themselves.

During his residence at Kingston, he published an "Ode to Harmony;" elegant in its composition, and intended as a tribute of gratitude to his uncle and aunt, for their exemplary care and attention, and also as a compliment to the uninterrupted affection in which they had lived for a number of years, and in which he had long participated and delighted.

Shortly

Shortly after this, and by way of contrast, he published an "Ode to Discord," prefaced with the following line,

"Bombatio, clangor, stridor, taratantara, murmure."

With these he printed the admired poem of the "Witch of Wokey;" a little piece of such infinite merit, that, on being read by the editor of a collection of fugitive, anonymous poems (printed a few years ago), it was selected, and again given to the public, with a note, that it had been *altered* by the celebrated Gray, author of the Church-Yard Elegy. With the admiration of an enthusiast for the poetic powers of Mr. Gray, we cannot but observe, that, if the alterations are his, they are certainly not *improvements*. On the contrary, wherever he has changed a word, he has robbed it of a *beauty*. It is at this time very rare to be met with, we shall, therefore, from a conviction of its gratifying our readers, refer them to Dr. Percy's Relics of Ancient Poetry, in the second volume of which beautiful collection it will be found, together with some other of our author's ingenious performances. It was also inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1755.

In the year 1748 the Doctor took his bachelor's degree, and much about the same time gave up his intention of taking orders, (the only motive for which was the small living of Kelston, which would become the presentation of his father, after the death of the incumbent, Archdeacon Huddleston, who married his aunt) and commenced the study of physic, in which pursuit he was encouraged by one of

his uncles, at that period the most eminent physician in Bath, yet it was only the encouragement of words; for, though he was a man empowered, both by fortune and fame, to introduce his amiable relative with eclat to the world, in his professional character, it is a lamentable truth, that his actions towards him were niggardly and illiberal; for, even when declining health made it necessary to have an assistant, he preferred a stranger to his nephew, though, from his very great celebrity, there could have been little doubt of its establishing the young man's medical reputation, and securing to him (in case of death) the entire practice of his uncle. We are wholly at a loss to account for this depravity of heart in the man who first introduced him to study medicine; nor is it necessary to offer any comment, every *just* mind will feel the only one that can be made on such a circumstance.

Dr. Harrington remained at Oxford till he took his degree of master of arts. His college tutor was Dr. George Fothergill, of whom he speaks in the highest terms of praise, and grateful affection. He says, "he was an excellent scholar, a sound logician, a nervous writer, and the best of men; one whose gentleness of mind and manners made his pupils not only respect him as their tutor, but love him as their friend!" The Doctor did all possible honour to his abilities and attentions. He left the college with the reputation of being one of the first classical scholars, and rich in every species of information necessary to the man of letters and complete gentleman; yet he
was

was more indebted to a highly gifted understanding (which could, in a moment, see and comprehend all things), than to intense study, of which he was by no means fond, and would often say with the bard, that

“ Study is like the heaven’s glorious sun,
That will not be deep search’d with saucy looks;
What have continual plodders ever won,
Save base authority from others books ?”

He possessed too much genius to borrow ideas from any man, and felt a pride in being one of the *few* who *could* think for themselves. But though he was not exactly a *book-worm*, he was certainly what the world calls *well read*, and was also a man of strong judgment, and exquisite taste, of which he has since given the world various proofs. At a very early age, he discovered such a thorough knowledge of mathematics, metaphysics, music, and poetry, as astonished his fellow collegians, and created no small degree of jealousy in their minds; many felt ashamed of their inferiority to a *west country boy* (as they called him); for, at that time, Queen’s college was chiefly resorted to by students from the northern counties, famous for shrewdness of intellect, as well as persevering application, and it was not a little mortifying to find themselves surpassed in learning by one who seemed to take no particular pains about it.

He was fond of mechanical arts, and displayed much ingenuity in the construction of several mathematical instruments for his own use: in short, his genius was universal, he knew something of every thing,

thing, and whatever he undertook, was always successfully accomplished. He was well acquainted with astronomy ; but his favourite study and amusement was that enchanting science, whose dulcet charms have power

“ To soothe the savage breast,
To soften rocks, and bend the knotted oak.”

And, though very young and *self-taught*, he was well known, and much admired in the musical world for the delicacy and sweetness of his compositions, and also for his superior taste and execution on the flute. He played the harpsichord, but only to set his music ; it was not his favourite instrument ; and he never performed on it in public.

The celebrated Dr. Hays, of Oxford, father of the late musical professor, founded a club of *gentlemen musicians*, vocal and instrumental, none of whom were permitted to perform, unless they could play and sing at sight. If any gentleman committed a blunder, he was not allowed to continue his performance that evening ; and, in order to have them perfect in their different parts, Dr. Hays gave each a bill of the next night's entertainment. By adhering to these rules, this charming society met for many years in *true harmony*. Dr. Harrington soon became a principal ornament to it, and felt delighted in the opportunity it afforded him to become acquainted with the learned and ingenious Dr. Hays, whose friendship he possessed to the end of his life. He often mentions this musical association with pleasure, and re-
grets

grets that there is no longer such another: yet it is by no means wonderful, since we find the gentlemen of the present day more inclined to derive amusement from the exertions of professional men (the number of whom are increased ten to one) than their own, where it requires (as in music) so much labour to attain any degree of excellence; and, indeed, if we consider how many claims the world has upon the time of men of fashion and fortune, it will not appear a matter of surprise, that very few, so circumstanced, become *proficients* in any of the sciences, at the same time we must remark, with infinite satisfaction, the liberal encouragement which they give to those, whose talents and industry merit reward.*

* A catch club, of which the Doctor has been a principal member, had been established at Bath, for several years, at the White Lion, and was removed a few years since to the White Hart Inn. Some years ago Mr. Rauzzini, who has, with much talent and liberality, conducted the concerts at Bath above twenty years, having lost considerably by conducting that concert, a meeting was held by the subscribers, in order to prevent such a circumstance from happening again the following year; when twelve gentlemen, of large fortune, agreed to undertake the concert for that year, and, if there should prove a deficiency, to defray the expences out of their pockets. This was all well, and liberal enough, had they stopped there; but some of them, who came forward (as it should appear from motives of vanity, and who were members of the Catch Club), soon after began to think that they might possibly be a few pounds out of pocket at the end of the season, if the Catch Club continued that winter. They accordingly contrived to get a meeting of some of the subscribers, and voted no Catch Club for that season! Doctor Harrington, who was not consulted, was displeased at what he justly called the

man

The Doctor has through life been a warm and generous patron to all men of musical talents. His own are unequalled even by the profession—a truth that must be *felt* by every lover of taste, elegance, expression, and delicacy; charms that highly characterize all his compositions, which, though so various, are, like the characters of the immortal Shakespear, all *original*. An anthem, which the Doctor composed for thirty-six voices, is, perhaps, one of the richest specimens of genius and scientific knowledge that has ever appeared since the productions of the sublime Handel, to which alone it is inferior.

mean conduct of these parsimonious regulators. He, therefore, rallied his friends and acquaintance to hold a meeting to totally annihilate the old club, and to create another, under the name of the Harmonic Society. This was effectually carried into execution, and new rules established to put this society upon an infinitely better footing than the old Catch Club; it was more liberal, more extensive, and yet much less expensive. The number of subscribers was soon very great; but still they were select, as none but gentlemen of character were proposed and ballotted for. Thus many *disagreeables* were prevented from intruding into it. It is now the best musical society in England; and has the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and many of the first nobility and gentry, among its members. The Doctor contributes much to the harmony of the society, by introducing his own new compositions; and has the pleasure of hearing his old compositions performed in the best manner. This society meets every Friday, during the winter and spring months; and every member has the privilege of bringing a friend. There is a cold supper, and much conviviality after. When supper is finished, the old grace is sung of *non nobis Domine*, which the Doctor always accompanies on the harpsichord. The first toast that is drank is (by a rule enacted), “Doctor Harrington, the founder of the Harmonic Society.”

He

He has also favoured the public with many other anthems, hymns, &c. so truly beautiful, and so justly approved, that they are performed in many places of divine worship. As a profound judge, the Doctor is an enthusiastic admirer of the above incomparable composer, and was deeply offended with the celebrated and ingenious Rauzzini for remarking that "Handel was a good *German* musician enough, but the Italians have *many* Handels." And he very warmly replied, "Not *all* the musicians that Italy ever boasted, put together, could produce the celestial harmony of *his* chorusses." The Doctor's favourite style of composition, and that in which he excels most, is the tender and pathetic. Many of his songs, trios, elegies, &c. possessing all that sweet soft witching of melody that sinks deep into the heart, and gently proves, that

" Music is the food of love."

And his poetry according with his notes, gives us to believe such is his opinion. Amongst several, whose beauty make it difficult to select any one with preference, may be mentioned in illustration of this idea, the universally and *justly* admired one of,

" How sweet is the pleasure, how great the delight,
When soft love and harmony together unite," &c.

The Doctor has also displayed much comic humour in some of his productions; and his "Old Thomas Day" (so inimitably executed by the late celebrated Edwin, of Covent Garden); "Give me the sweet Quaker's Wedding;" "The stammering Song;" and,

and, "The Alderman's Thumb;" have each contributed to his popularity and fame!!!

We have read with great pleasure some exquisite pieces of humour, in monkish Latin, by Dr. Harrington, particularly one, in ridicule of gaming, with this whimsical title, "FRAGMENTUM CRITICO-PROFUNDUM DE FORMIS QUIBUSDAM MAGICIS, sive Uaticinium Fratris Radulphi Monachi. Inter Scripta antiquissima apud *Cænobium Bathoniense* inventum A. D. 1397. Cui Annotationes adjicit VANDERSLABICUS, Historicus ille compendiosus, tomo centesimo vicesimo primo de REBUS LUSORIIS."

The verses are as follow; but the annotations are too long for this memoir.

In *Quadris* gaudentes
Et *Circis* faventes,
[Dum luditur, *Fraudis* insontes]
De *Scabie Porci*
De faucibus *Orci*
Vos salvos servabunt *hi Fontes*.

Sed *Cubi* et *Sphæræ*
Sunt Illecebræ veræ,
Diaboli prædam captantis
(*Infernum* ut Rete)
Has formas cavite!
Lethalis fit *Deus Elephantis*.

As a medical character, he has ever been highly respected. He first practised at Wells, in Somersetshire, in the year 1753; whither he went, on his quitting Oxford and marrying the amiable and accomplished Miss Musgrave, with the hope of success,

as at that time there was no other physician there. However, after a few years, he found the advantages by no means adequate to the inconveniences attending the situation, and he removed to Bath, where he has continued to practise with private emolument and public honour. His disposition is humane and benevolent; and he is equally loved and respected by all ranks of people. He is at this time Physician to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and many of the first nobility.*

About four years since, Doctor Harrington received the office of Chief Magistrate of Bath, much to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, and has ever been found indefatigable in his magisterial capacity as one of the justices.

Dr. Harrington's eldest son has also served the same office, during which, on presenting an address to the King, he received the honour of knighthood. He is an officer in the army, and in 1794 published an ingenious and spirited pamphlet, entitled "Desultory Thoughts on the Cruelties of the French Nation."

Doctor Harrington's philanthropy and charity are unbounded; and his humanity to the brute creation extended to so great a degree, that he has left in his will one guinea per annum for an annual sermon, to enforce the practice of humanity to brute animals.

Y. Z.

* The Doctor for many years attended the Dowager Lady Trevor, relict of Lord Trevor, and last surviving daughter of the famous

THE DUCHESS OF GORDON.

IN every rank of society, many are the creatures of imitation ; they think and act less from their own judgment and choice than from the examples of those whom they propose to themselves as models. It is, therefore, of the highest importance in any circle of society, that the person who gives the tone to its opinions, manners, and pursuits, should be such as best to promote its most beneficial and agreeable purposes. Fashion is closely interwoven with morals and with politics. The pursuits and manners which she prescribes, powerfully influence private integrity, public patriotism and loyalty. In no circle does that imitation, whose influence we have already remarked, operate more powerfully than in high life, and by

famous Sir Richard Steele. The Doctor speaks of this Lady as possessing all the wit, humour, and gaiety of her father, together with most of his faults. She was extravagant, and always in debt ; but she was generous, charitable, and humane. She was particularly partial to young people, whom she frequently entertained most liberally, and delighted them with the pleasantry and volubility of her discourse. Her person was like that which her pleasant father describes of himself in the Spectator, with his short face, &c. &c. A little before her death (which was in the month of December) she sent for her Doctor ; and, on his entering her chamber, he said, “ How fares your Ladyship ? ” She replied, “ Oh ! my dear Doctor, ill fare ! I am going to break up before the holidays ! ” This agreeable lady lived many years in Queen’s Square, Bath, and, in the summer months, at St. Ann’s Hill, Surry, the present residence of the Honourable Charles James Fox.

none

none are people of that condition more directed than by the Duchess of Gordon. That this is the fact, all those who are acquainted with that rank in society will readily bear testimony. We hope, therefore, it will not be unacceptable to our readers to present to them the principal features of this lady's history and character, to mark their operation, the influence it has procured her, and the effects which it has produced.

Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monteith, in the county of Lanark, in Scotland, had a large family both of sons and daughters. Of the young ladies, Jane, born in 1750, was one. As they grew up, the Misses Maxwell were distinguished for beauty and intelligence. The influence produced by the one was secured by the other; for both personal and mental qualifications, Miss Jane was peculiarly distinguished. She was eminent for agility and grace in the performance of those exercises which display beauty and symmetry, on the one hand; and for the gaiety, spirit, and brilliancy of humour and wit, which so agreeably set off acute and vigorous understanding, on the other. At seventeen years of age she captivated the affections of the young Duke of Gordon, then just come of age, and listening to his addresses, became, October 18, 1767, Duchess of Gordon.

In this station, the agreeable, amiable, and impressive qualities of her Grace, which had before procured her the esteem and admiration of the Caledonian capital, and all those within the circle of her
1799-1800. K k acquaintance,

acquaintance, greatly extended the sphere of her influence. Henceforward, those talents and qualities more and more unfolded themselves, which have rendered her a BRITISH PUBLIC CHARACTER. She was eminently distinguished for her engaging deportment, for being the life and soul of elegant parties, especially those met for festive amusement. Her sallies of wit enlivened the table, her precepts and example animated the ball-room. She was peculiarly skilled and successful in gladdening life, in diffusing delightful feelings. Wherever she presided, either directly or indirectly, to no member of the company was genial attention wanting. She had the power of making all persons within the sphere of her actions pleased with themselves; a power that in an individual must result from the union of disposition to prompt, with discernment to perceive different cases, and judgment to direct the conduct accordingly. It is not surprising that, so disposed and qualified, her Grace was extremely popular. The writer of this article remembers, that, in 1777, he one evening happened to be at an inn at Blair, in Athol, near Athol-house, a seat of the Duke of that name; he had hardly arrived when a large party of country gentlemen, with all of whom he was well acquainted, came to the inn from his Grace's mansion; one of their fellow guests had been the Duchess of Gordon. Her charms, her attention, her manners, her accomplishments, were the theme of universal praise for several hours, and were resumed with equal warmth in the morning. Conversing with

the youngest gentleman in the company, but whom he knew to be possessed of very vigorous talents and penetrating discernment, "Pray, Charles," said the writer, "what appears to you to be her Grace's secret for enrapturing your father, and all our worthy friends?" "Careful forbearance of her display of superiority of rank in the distribution of her attentions; no marked consideration of that diversity in others when met together at the same table; giving every one an opportunity of speaking on a subject, on which he supposed he could speak well; not all her engaging qualifications made such an impression on my father, as a conversation in which he was enabled to bring forward his favourite opinions on planting trees and potatoes, as most beneficial both to gentlemen and the poor. His good neighbour was no less captivated by her Grace's discourse with him on sheep-farms. You may depend upon it," continued the young gentleman, "that her understanding and manners, independent of her face, countenance, and figure, will secure to her an ascendancy in any particular company, in which she happens to be placed, as well as the general circle in which she moves."*

At Athol-house her Grace first saw Neil Gow, the

* Some remark was made at table concerning the cork rumps then in fashion, especially among ladies, to whom nature had been malignant in certain personal charms. Her Grace, who was not in that predicament, declared she would never encourage such adventitious aids.

father of the present Scotch ball music. To this circumstance may be traced the origin of the introduction of Scotch dancing into the fashionable world, which art the Messrs. Jenkins, father and son, have brought to its present perfection. Her Grace, pleased with the exquisite performance of the Athol musician, proposed to him to attend at Leith races, of which she was to be a spectator the following week. Admiring Neil's style of performance, she thought no less highly of his compositions as peculiarly adapted to the native dances of Scotland. One of his productions, though of too plaintive a cast to prompt the active movements of the Strathspey and reel, yet attracted her Grace's notice, from the taste, genius, and feelings which it exhibited. Though Neil Gow's fame, before the patronage of her Grace, was chiefly provincial, yet where his merit was known it was held in very high estimation. One of his most liberal and munificent patrons was Mr. Moray, of Abercairney, a gentleman of great fortune and distinction, father-in-law to the late eminent Sir William Erskine. Mr. Moray having died about two months before the period at which we are arrived, Neil Gow, in remembrance of his deceased benefactor, composed a delicate and pathetic melody, exhibiting at once, the melancholy of gratitude for ever deprived of its object, and a just and vigorous conception of the tones best adapted to the expression of passion. This piece of music was then, for the first time, performed from the orchestra of Neil's patron, the

the Duke of Athol, to the exquisite delight of the company, and especially of that illustrious guest who is the subject of our narrative. She thenceforward patronized Neil, and under her protection Scotch music began to rise towards the deserved eminence.

The popularity of her Grace she employed in benefiting her country. When the discomfiture of Burgoyne's army rendered extraordinary exertions necessary, and loyal and patriotic individuals promoted the public service by raising regiments, the Gordon family were among the first to offer their assistance. Her Grace, conscious of the influence which she had acquired among all ranks, determined to employ it in promoting so laudable a purpose. In the very depth of winter, when the gay and splendid season of London was just beginning; when arrangements were making for the elegant parties and festive enjoyments of high life, the fair subject of our narrative left the metropolis, and set out for the cold regions of the Highlands. The presence of a lady, whose affability, condescension, and goodness, they regarded with such gratitude and admiration, inspiring the gallant mountaineers, the corps was soon completed. This speedy formation of a body of volunteers by one great family, afforded a striking contrast to the difficulty which another, at the same time, experienced from the adoption of compulsory measures. Indeed the different influence of the two families in question, in countries of by no means dissimilar manners and sentiments, is a very prominent

instance of the impolicy of haughty demeanor and repulsive pride in persons of rank, if they seek influence and power, and the sound wisdom of an agreeable and engaging deportment.

Her Grace having heard of practices that were carried on in a certain part of Scotland, very inconsistent with the rights of British subjects—for instance, confining poor men in cellars, to compel them to *inlist* as soldiers, although there was no act in force at that period of the war that permitted involuntary levies; when she came to London some time after, she mentioned *that mode of recruiting!* One day she happened to be at a route, where Mr. Fox was present, when she related to the company an anecdote she had heard. It seems, in the regiment of which part had been levied in the manner we have above mentioned, there was a good deal of contumacy in learning the discipline. It happened at drilling, that a sergeant was very severely beating a poor fellow near a town through which her Grace had to pass in her way to the south. On enquiring what crime had drawn upon the sufferer such severity—"No crime at all, please your Ladyship," replied the sergeant, "this is the way in our corps of making *folunteers.*" Her Grace, in reciting this story, expressed such sentiments as humanity would dictate on such a subject, and added some observations concerning the *cellars*. Mr. Fox hearing this short narrative, with the accompanying remarks, immediately declared that the conduct of the *principal in this species*

*ies** of recruiting demanded a serious enquiry, which he would set about instituting. Her Grace intreated him not to proceed on her information, and before he had time or opportunity to investigate the truth through other channels, other public business interfered, and prevented the reconsideration of the cellar adventures.

His Grace the Duke of Gordon employed much of his time in the country, in superintending the building of a very large and magnificent house. That undertaking, together with the style in which her Grace's rank in society, and situation in the fashionable world obliged her to live, caused an accumulation of expence, which, notwithstanding the extensive and productive estates of the family, involved them in some temporary difficulties. An arrangement, however, was made, by which it was ascertained, that the embarrassments would not be per-

* So much of feudal notions then prevailed among the Scotch peasantry, that many of them did not immediately perceive the injustice of such compulsion. The great man in question appeared to have himself entertained an opinion, that he had the disposal of the services of his tenants, and indeed of all poor men who had not power or spirit to defend their own rights. A gentleman of ability, property, and an independent mind in the neighbourhood, gave him a different lesson, as indeed did a peasant who had received part of his education in England; and besides having imbibed sentiments of constitutional liberty, had learned the art of boxing, which he could exercise with the more effect, as he was above six feet high, and strongly made. The lessons of this preceptor were not without their use; the greater, as the grandee hardly ever studied any other.

maient. With great and exemplary merit, these noble personages submitted to a reduction of establishments and retrenchment of expenditure. For several years, the sum to which they limited themselves for so laudable a purpose, was very small indeed, for their rank and dignity; but even then, as always, her Grace was among the most prominent characters of the fashionable world. When she was later than usual in coming to town, the common complaint among ladies of fashion was, "How dull the town is! would to heaven the Duchess of Gordon were arrived! we shall have no life, no spirit, till she come."

The great increase of rents, on the expiration of leases, and diminution of incumbrances from rigid adherence to their æconomical plan, brought their income nearer to its former standard, and her Grace now spent the usual time at London. While she had such weight in the fashionable world, she was strictly attentive to domestic duties. On the education of her daughters, five in number, she bestowed great pains, directed by the soundest judgment; taking a comprehensive view of the relation in society in which they stood and were destined to stand, her object was to make them amiable, accomplished, and worthy, a task not difficult, as they were beautiful, lovely, and intelligent, but which, without skill and wisdom, even with these natural advantages, might not have been performed. Among the external accomplishments, on which she laid the greatest stress, was dancing, as contributing to health, agility,

agility, and grace. The Duchess, who was and is herself an admirable performer, became more and more attached to Scotch dancing, and the appropriate music, as being more conformable to the British character than French. Under her patronage, the sons of her old protegee, Neil Gow, first received that encouragement and attention, which, by making their merits known, rendered their music so generally attractive. The Duchess observed that the Messrs. Gow, to the natural genius of their father, superadded taste and science, and softened the wild vivacity of highland music, without materially deviating from its character. She wished a corresponding improvement might take place in dancing. To effect this object was reserved for the ingenious Mr. Jenkins. On the agility and accurate measures of the highland steps, that gentleman superinduced grace; his improvement in dancing being analogous to that of the Gows in ball music. Her Grace took Mr. Jenkins under her patronage, and was first the means of that recommendation to the public, which his own efforts, and those of his son, improving in effect, as in principle, became ascertained by experience, and art was perfected by practice. The character of that delightful exercise, as patronized by the Duchess of Gordon, is ease without negligence, exactness without stiffness, elegance and grace without pomp or ostentation. This amusement became extremely fashionable, and by occupying the time, formerly too often bestowed on very ruinous pursuits, produced a change by no means unimportant in

in the fashionable world. Her Grace was the first who brought forward music and dancing at routs, and thus entrenched on the hostile provinces of gaming. Monymusk was heard instead of the dice-box; Lough Erich Side took up the attention that would have been bestowed on vingt-un; reels and Strathspeys took place of rouge et noir and faro; round games were abandoned for country dances. If the glow of hilarity tends more to beauty than anxiety, avarice, or rage; if a fine young woman appear to more advantage interweaving in the animating dance, than with her whole soul wrapt up in the odd trick; if active exercise be more healthy than sedentary employment; if it is better to enjoy innocent pleasure than to lose sums that may involve circumstances or distress relations, then is dancing superior to gaming; and the person who has substituted so delightful a recreation in the place of so pernicious a pursuit, and who has introduced it into those circles in which it chiefly prevailed, and which inferior classes are so apt to copy, has produced a beneficial change in society. Such has resulted from the countenance of the Duchess of Gordon. By diminishing the time and attention bestowed upon gaming, she has immediately benefited fashionable life, and ultimately other ranks in society.

Although the influence of her Grace has produced the most sensible and regular effects in the amusements, recreations, and character of fashion, yet has she occasionally exerted herself with much activity in the political world. From the first public appear-

ance

ance of Mr. Pitt she regarded him with the highest admiration; but though attached to the party that supported him, she was in the habits of friendly intercourse with many of the opposite side. Her liberal mind did not consider identity of political opinion with her own as a necessary constituent in an estimable character. At the time of the King's illness, approving of Mr. Pitt's plan without questioning the integrity of those who having always voted with Mr. Fox adhered to him on that occasion, she with much indignation reprobated those who having professed themselves the King's friends, and eaten his bread, joined the opposite party when they knew it likely to become prevalent. As her Grace, when requisite, expressed sentiments very frankly that she knew to be right, although not perfectly agreeable to some hearers, she was at that time not sparing in her animadversions. She accosted, with very great and just severity, a well-known peripatetic (we do not mean a peripatetic philosopher), and exposed his conduct in so humorous and strong satire, that it is said she almost recalled to his recollection that there is such a feeling as shame in the human mind.

When the French revolution changed the form and object of parties, her Grace adhering to that which adopted the sentiments of Mr. Burke, occasionally met with persons who viewed it in a different light. Even then, without attacking with indiscriminate acrimony all those who thought otherwise from herself, she was frequently severe on persons of rank and title, whom in conceiving to wish for the abolition

lition of their own privileges, she considered as guilty of a sort of political suicide. One day a very acute and able nobleman, but by no means so remarkable for external appearance as for intellectual ability, and whose lady was supposed to have been more in love with his title than himself, was advancing some doctrines which she construed to be favourable to leveling principles. "Lord!" said she, "it is very ungrateful of you to abuse titles; to a title you owe your rich wife. Do you think any woman of fortune would have married you if you had been plain——."

The eldest son of their Graces, the Marquis of Huntley, is one of the most elegant young men of the age; acute, accomplished, open, frank, and unassuming, carrying in his handsome, expressive, countenance a passport to the heart; a favourite with all that know him, is peculiarly so with Scotsmen, at whose periodical festivals he often presides, and delights those numerous companies by his social, convivial manners and habits. His Lordship began his military career in the 42d or Old Highland regiment. To his native highlands he is extremely partial, and never in higher glee than when enjoying himself at the highland club.* His Lordship now commands a regiment, at the head of which he distinguished himself in Holland in the engagement at Alkmaar, was wounded, but fortunately for his friends and country, in a slight degree. Lord Huntley is very fond of

* Which meets periodically at the Shakespear during the winter.

Scotch music and dancing, and of the latter is one of the best and most graceful performers in the kingdom. The Duchess is extremely fond of this amiable and worthy son. Of the daughters of the family, three have become members of the first houses in England; and one married a respectable Scotch baronet. Lady Charlotte, the eldest, is the wife of Colonel Lennox, heir of the Duke of Richmond. Lady Madelaine, the second, married Sir Robert Sinclair; Lady Susan is Duchess of Manchester; Lady Louisa is the wife of Lord Broome, son and heir of Marquis Cornwallis; and Lady Georgina, equal in beauty, loveliness, and accomplishments to any of her sisters, now about seventeen, is still unmarried. Their Graces have two sons under age.

Her Grace is somewhat above the middle size, very finely shaped, though now considerably *embonpoint*. Her face is oval, with dark expressive eyes, very regular features, fine complexion, and a most engaging expression.

The Duchess very frequently deals in *bon mots*; some of them sportive, and some, as we have already seen, strongly and poignantly satirical. Two we just now recollect, which we shall here annex to our account.—One evening a party of friends being engaged at some amusement resembling questions and commands, it is said that the Marquis being asked what trade he would choose, answered, making garters for ladies' stockings; and that the Duchess observed, "Ah, George! you would soon be *above* your trade."—One evening her Grace was in company

pany with a gentleman, the correct composition of whose military dispatches had undergone some critical animadversions.—“ I congratulate you,” said the Duchess, “ on your talent for writing English poetry.” “ English poetry !” said he.—“ Yes !” said she, “ for I am sure what you write is not English prose.”

Her Grace had several brothers, of whom, we believe, Sir William Maxwell is now the only one alive. General Maxwell, her second brother, died some years ago, leaving her Grace a considerable legacy. She has two sisters, one of whom is Mrs. Fordyce, the lady of John Fordyce, Esq. formerly a banker in Edinburgh ; the other, Lady Wallace, so well known in the fashionable and literary world.

DOCTOR CURRIE,

OF LIVERPOOL.

JAMES CURRIE, M. D. is the only son of a clergyman of the church of Scotland, whose father also exercised the pastoral office in that part of the county of Dumfries, named Annandale. In the *manse*, or parsonage house, which had descended as by inheritance from his grandfather to his father, the subject of the present memoir was born in the year 1756.

The Scottish nation enjoys an invaluable advantage in the institution of parochial schools, where youths receive, upon the easiest terms, the rudiments of a good education. In the school of his parish, and under the inspection of his father, Dr. C. entered upon
his

his grammatical and classical studies. On attaining his thirteenth year, he was sent to the school of Dumfries, which was then conducted by Dr. Chapman, so well known by his work on education. In Dr. Chapman's house he resided as a boarder; and, after going through the regular course of the school, he continued, under the superintendence of the Doctor, to prosecute his studies in the mathematics. If, from the maturity of a plant, we may form an idea of its early culture, we may be justified in supposing, that Dr. Currie enjoyed considerable advantages in the assiduities of his tutor, and that he improved these advantages to the utmost.

The disposition of the northern Britons to emigrate into climes more promising than their own, has been so frequent a subject of wit, that the shrewdest mode of hinting the fact now scarcely provokes a smile. We shall, therefore, simply state, that Dr. C. participated, with a large portion of his countrymen, in the spirit of adventure, in consequence of which, he went to Virginia, in the service of a company of merchants.

His voyage to the American continent was far from being auspicious. Soon after his arrival, the jealousies which the American states had long entertained of the oppressive projects of the British ministry, stimulated them to publish the most spirited resolutions; in consequence of which, the trade between America and England was entirely interrupted. This circumstance at once clouded the flattering prospects of our young adventurer, who went, at the commencement

commencement of the troubles, to reside with a near relation, an eminent physician in the colony.

Mercantile pursuits being thus fatally embarrassed by the agitation of the times, Mr. C. determined to change his views in life, and to adopt the profession of medicine, to which he had been originally destined. In pursuance of this design, he resolved to go through a regular course of study, at the University of Edinburgh. He accordingly bid adieu to America, and, as direct communication with Britain was obstructed, he went by way of the West Indies to London. At this busy metropolis he arrived sometime in the course of the year 1776.

After a short stay in London, he repaired to Edinburgh, and began his academic studies. These he prosecuted with great vigour, and unremitting assiduity, till the spring of 1780.

At this period divers cogent reasons urged him to wish to enter into some active employment. His friends encouraged him to hope that he might be appointed on the staff of the army as a physician; and a medical establishment being at that time about to be formed for the army in Jamaica, it was thought advisable that he should stand candidate for the appointment of physician, or assistant physician, to the hospital: but, before solicitation for his appointment could be made with propriety, it was absolutely necessary that the candidate should have taken his degree. Though Mr. C. had studied at Edinburgh three years, the time necessary to qualify him to apply for the honour of graduation, there are only

two days on which medical degrees are conferred in that University. The urgency of the occasion not permitting Mr. C. to wait for the recurrence of the nearest of these days, he took his degree at Glasgow, and immediately began the disagreeable work of soliciting for the appointment which his friends had inspired him with the hope of obtaining.

The retired habits of assiduous study, and the scrupulous nicety of a man of elevated mind were but ill calculated to procure the favour of numerous or powerful patrons. From some of the professors of the University, however, and from those of his fellow students with whom he had formed an acquaintance, Dr. Currie was furnished with ample and honourable testimonials, and with the most urgent letters of introduction and recommendation. But, on his arrival in London, he found that the appointment, the object of his wishes, was already disposed of. At the instance of Mr. Surgeon-general Adair, it had been conferred on a young Irish physician, a gentleman of indisputable merit.

Vestigia nulla retrorsum seems to be the motto of the major part of the men of talents who quit the barren mountains of Caledonia. The Doctor being disappointed in his hopes of preferment on the medical staff, resolved, at all events, to go to Jamaica, and attempt to establish himself in that island as a physician. He accordingly took his passage in a vessel which was expected soon to sail in company with a numerous fleet. Various circumstances delayed

1799-1800. L 1 the

the sailing of this fleet, and, consequently, caused the Doctor to pass the summer of 1780 in London.

During this interval of delay, he was encouraged by his friends, whose numbers and zeal increased in proportion as he was known, to think of settling as a physician in some part of England. In the course of his enquiries after an eligible situation, he visited various places. At length, in the latter end of 1780, a vacancy being occasioned in the medical profession at Liverpool, by the removal of Dr. Dobson to Bath, Dr. C. repaired to the former place, where he soon met with very great encouragement.

In the year 1783 he married the daughter of a very respectable merchant of the town of Liverpool.

In the ensuing year, his growing usefulness was very seriously impeded by a dangerous illness, which was occasioned by the exertions and anxieties of friendship.

The most affectionate intimacy subsisted between him and the ingenious Dr. Bell, then resident at Manchester. During an alarming illness of his friend, which unfortunately terminated in his death, Dr. Currie paid him several visits. The fatigue occasioned by the rapid mode in which a physician of rising practice, is in a manner obliged to make distant journies, occasioned an inflammatory fever, which reduced him to the greatest extremity. The disorder settling on his lungs, brought on a cough, which for a long time threatened consumption. This illness disabled him from prosecuting his practice for at least the space of six months.

Though

Though the event which has just been mentioned is, in reality, an event of serious importance in the life of a medical gentleman; it would not, perhaps, have been recorded in these memoirs, did it not give occasion to refer to a very interesting account of the Doctor's case, which was written by himself, and communicated to Dr. Darwin, who inserted it in the 2d volume of his *Zoonomia*, p. 293. Dr. Darwin introduces it with the following respectful notice of the author.

“The following case of hereditary consumption is related by a physician of great ability and very extensive practice; and, as it is his own case, abounds with much nice observation and useful knowledge; and, as it has been attended with a favourable event, may give consolation to many who are in a similar situation, and shews that Sydenham's recommendation of riding as a cure for consumption is not so totally ineffectual as is now commonly believed.”

The first exertion which Dr. C. made on the commencement of his recovery, was occasioned by his zeal to pay the tribute of affection to the memory of his deceased friend. He had received a request * from the Literary Society of Manchester, that he would translate the Inaugural Dissertation of Dr. Bell, and prefix to his translation, *Memoirs of the Author's Life*. This request was transmitted to him † in the month of February 1784; but so long was

* *Memoirs of the Manchester Society*, vol. ii. p. 397.

† *Vide Memoirs ut supra.*

the continuance of his debilitating illness, that the papers in question were not communicated to the society till March 1785.

In publishing the *Memoirs of Dr. Bell*, Dr. Currie may be regarded as making his first appearance in the character of an author. In the memoirs themselves, however, there is not the least trace of internal evidence of a first appearance. The style is maturely formed, and possesses a correctness which is hardly to be expected but from the pen of a practised writer. Indeed it has not been excelled by the happiest of its author's subsequent writings. The concluding summary of Dr. Bell's character is a model of nice discrimination, and evinces a most accurate knowledge of the general principles of human nature. The delicate, yet exact, manner in which the defective traits of Dr. Bell's character are touched, beautifully exemplifies the sternness of truth, controlling the partial pencil of affection.

The inhabitants of the town of Liverpool have been long distinguished by the liberality with which they patronize charitable institutions. In the year 1785, a proposal was made to connect with the public Infirmary (of which Dr. C. was one of the physicians) an asylum for the reception of lunatics. This project the Doctor warmly recommended, in a letter which he published in *Gore's Liverpool Advertiser*, in the month of August 1789. In a subsequent letter, dated October 15, 1789, he answered the objections which had been advanced against the proposed establishment. Both these letters are distinguished by
luminousness

luminousness of method, and chastity of style. The latter may be justly cited as an example of the candid and temperate discussion of a practical question of great importance—an example, alas! of rare occurrence: for, in these times of turbulence, discord mars the wisest and most benevolent projects; creating disorder not only on the grand arena of national contention, but on the petty stage of parochial litigation.

The friends of humanity will be happy to be informed, that the institution in question met with the most liberal patronage, and that the author of these memoirs had the satisfaction, on paying a visit to Liverpool in the year 1791, to see, among other monuments of the munificent spirit of the inhabitants of that flourishing mart of commerce, a handsome and well planned edifice, fitted up for the reception of those who suffer under the pressure of the worst of human ills—"the mind diseased."

The Medical Society of London having elected Dr. C. one of their body, he communicated to them a paper on tetanus and convulsive disorders, which was read on the 10th of May 1790, and published in the 3d volume of their memoirs. In this valuable communication, the Doctor recites the history of seven cases—the first and last of which are singularly curious and interesting. The paper is closed by a few judicious remarks.

In the year 1792, Dr. C presented to the Royal Society *an Account of the remarkable Effects of a Shipwreck on the Mariners, with Experiments and Observa-*

tions on the Influence of Immersion in fresh and salt Water, hot and cold, on the Powers of the living Body.

This paper was inserted in the Philosophical Transactions of the year in which it was received, and procured its author the honour of admission into the very respectable literary corporation to which it was communicated.

In the year 1798, Dr. C. laid before the public the result of much study and accurate observation, in a volume of *Medical Reports on the Effects of Water, cold and warm, as a Remedy in Fever and other Diseases.* The favourable reception which this publication experienced in the medical world, is sufficiently evinced by its having speedily advanced to a second edition, and by its having been translated into the German and French languages.

However delicate the topic may be, it is impossible to avoid adverting, on the present occasion, to the famous pamphlet, published in the year 1793, under the signature of Jasper Wilson. This pamphlet was universally ascribed to Dr. C. : and notwithstanding the illiberal but dangerous abuse heaped upon him by the defenders of ministry, which it would have been rashness to encounter without cause—and notwithstanding the high eulogiums which the credit of this book has procured him from the opponents of ministry, which it would have been natural for him to disclaim had his title to them been null : he has not, publicly at least, disavowed the publication.

It is not a matter of surprise, that the celebrity of the putative author should have made Jasper Wilson's

Letter

Letter to Mr. Pitt an object of extraordinary attention. The letter appeared at an awful crisis. The unguarded violence of the British partizans of revolutionary principles had drawn down upon their heads the asperity of ministerial vengeance, and the indignation of the public. Various convictions of persons accused of sedition, followed up by severe punishments, had alarmed all descriptions of the opponents of ministry. Serious warnings, indeed, were given to the *enragés*, and the more moderate were aware of the immense advantage which Mr. Pitt had gained, by identifying his administration with the constitution, and persuading the people, that an attack upon the former was an infringement on the latter. At this crisis great confidence was given to the friends of peace by the appearance of a letter, the author of which, while he paid due respect to the principles of the constitution, freely and ably impugned the conduct of ministry in protracting the war, when its avowed objects, the protection of Holland, and the recapture of Brabant, had been obtained, and when the French were suing for peace. So rapid was the circulation of this pamphlet, that, in a very short space of time, it passed through three editions. If the anti-ministerialists spread the fame of J. W.'s letter by the loudness of their applause, the ministerialists contributed their full share to its celebrity by the vehemence of their abuse. This abuse, however, has not provoked a reply. In the rapid course of events, scenes more and more awful have arrested public attention, and J. W.'s letter may now be in a manner

regarded as a tale of the times of old. It may now, perhaps, be examined with a dispassionate eye, and acknowledged to be a production worthy of a gentleman and a scholar; and though time, that tries all things, has, in some degree, confuted the commercial speculations of its author, yet the lapse of events has fatally proved, that his political predictions originated in the sagacity of a comprehensive mind.

He has since edited an elegant edition of the works of Robert Burns, to which he has affixed a life of that extraordinary and eccentric genius, written in the true spirit of literary biography, and marked by the discernment of an acute and well-informed mind.

M. N.

FRANCIS DUKE OF BEDFORD.*

FRANCIS RUSSELL, Duke of Bedford, succeeded to that title in the year 1771, on the death of the late Duke, his grandfather; at which time he was only seven years of age. He lost both his parents about four years before; his father, the Marquis of Tavistock, having been killed by a fall from his horse in hunting, and the Marchioness dying not long after, from the effects of that melancholy event on her constitution, already extremely delicate.

* This illustrious family may be traced back as far as the 5th year of Henry III. when one of their ancestors was constable of Corfe Castle, and many of them have filled, at various times, the most important offices of the state.

His

His Grace received the first rudiments of his education at Loughborough-house ; from whence he was sent to Westminster school, and taken home again on some cause of disgust, before he had acquired those rudiments of learning that were to prepare him for the greater attainments becoming his station. This circumstance was however of less importance to the Duke of Bedford than it might have been to many individuals ; as his natural vigour of mind, and his application to useful studies in maturer years, amply compensated the early neglect of his education. His Grace went to the University with the disadvantage of not being known for proficiency in such learning as young men carry to college : but he made a name for himself there, by his application and progress ; and gained the esteem both of his fellow-students, and of all those who had the superintendence of their conduct.

Under the circumstances in which the Duke of Bedford was placed, high in rank, and the heir of one of the most ample fortunes in this kingdom, we cannot be surprised if in early life he indulged in some of those amusements, which are too commonly the sole occupation of young men of fashion. Among these the turf seems to have engaged his early and most earnest attention ; though certainly not so much from the love of gambling as from a predilection for the noble animal which is the object of the sport. While he continued attached to the turf, he acquired an accurate and minute knowledge of the nature and qualities of the horse ; and perhaps from this passion
might

might have sprung that laudable and spirited emulation, which he afterwards evinced for improving the breed of cattle.

Such a mind, however, as that of the Duke of Bedford could not be long confined to the narrow science of a jockey, or the sports of the course. His manly spirit was soon aroused to nobler objects and far more meritorious pursuits. His name was regarded, first with respect, and afterwards with admiration. His rank, fortune, and influence, were objects worth the attention of the ministry, and they did not fail to try all means of securing his support. But, although the greater number of his relations, the Dukes of Marlborough and Dorset, Lord Stafford, and others, were on the side of ministry, his Grace wisely preferred being the friend and coadjutor of men, than whom no greater or more excellent ever adorned history, to the leaguering himself with profligacy possessing all the power of the state.

Descended from a family in which patriotism was an hereditary virtue, his Grace inherited the true spirit of the Russells. From his first outset in public life, therefore, he was connected with Mr. Fox, and was a firm and disinterested supporter of the Whig principles. Yet it was long before his Grace could so far overcome his natural diffidence as to be prevailed upon to speak in public. In private company the clearness of his judgment, and the force of his expression, had excited the surprise of the best judges of eloquence, who were satisfied, long before he made the effort, that his Grace possessed every
requisite

requisite of a distinguished orator. What the persuasions of those whose opinions he most respected could not effect, was unexpectedly produced by a momentary glow of indignation; and it is remarkable that he commenced his career as a public speaker, by what is generally considered as the most difficult effort of an orator—a reply. In a debate in the House of Lords his Grace imagined himself personally alluded to by one of the speakers. He rose, and defended himself and his party in a most animated and able reply. From that period he occasionally spoke upon the most important questions that divided the House, and was constantly heard, even by his adversaries, with the most respectful attention.

He opposed the late war in its commencement, and predicted most of the calamities and miseries which ensued from it. His statements on the finances of the country, also occasionally made in the House of Peers, evinced an understanding fully competent to the arduous investigation, and profoundly versed in the complex detail. With the rest of the Whig party, he seceded from Parliament in 1796, and very seldom was seen in his place in the House, till after the change of ministry in 1801. Though decidedly in opposition to the late Ministers, on the event of the peace his Grace expressed himself with equal candour and dignity with respect to the conduct of the present. He approved of what they *had done*, and gave them credit for what they professed, as to their intentions of restoring to us the blessings of our ancient constitution.

As

As a politician he was firm but moderate; he did not like to be considered as a party-man. His opposition to the late ministry proceeded from the purest principles. Of a family whom not only their rank and property, but the sufferings of their ancestors had attached to the cause of the people, that cause he made his own. The soundness of his judgment could not fail to detect the extravagant and puerile schemes in which the weak ambition of the late ministers had involved the country; he foresaw the issue, he foretold it, he lamented it, he in vain endeavoured to avert it. He was falsely and unjustly charged with being favourable to French principles. No man saw more clearly, or regretted more seriously, the absurdities and atrocities in which mistaken notions of liberty had involved that nation; and this very sentiment led him the more earnestly to oppose measures, which, by deranging our finances, were likely in this country to produce the dangers and disasters of a revolution.

We are now to turn to that part of the Duke of Bedford's character in which he will be allowed, by foes as well as friends, to have surpassed every man of rank in this country.

Instead of wasting his life in dissipation, indolence, or gaming, his Grace found that he could be happy without ruining his health and fortune, in corrupting the morals and injuring the property of his fellow-creatures; that he could experience real pleasures in projecting and executing experiments for the benefit of mankind; and could enjoy the satisfaction
of

of seeing two or three thousand men usefully employed, and themselves and their families rendered comfortable and happy by his bounty. It, indeed, is the highest eulogy of every nobleman and gentleman, to be beloved and adored in the vicinity of his country seat, where his genuine character is necessarily the best known.

The well-cultivated farm which the Duke kept in his own management, consists of about 3000 acres, exclusive of an extensive park. This park is nearly twenty miles in circumference, and it supports a great stock of sheep and young cattle, besides a large herd of fine deer. Within the park is situated the new farm-yard, in which is found every conveniency and modern improvement; particularly a threshing machine worked by horses or oxen from two to six in number, and which is capable of threshing and dressing seven quarters every hour, and of grinding and dressing the flour at the same time. Adjoining to this machinery is a malt house, and on the outside of the several yards are stables, barns, and sheds, with shops for carpenters, joiners, smiths, wheelwrights, &c. &c. The pig-sties are so clean, that they would put many a cottager to the blush for want of cleanliness in their little habitations. In the yard are two good dwelling-houses for the bailiffs. The implements are those of the best construction and newest invention, and they consist of all kinds of ploughs and harrows, rollers, chaff-cutting machines, &c.; among them is Mr. Salmon's chaff-cutter, which is admired for its simplicity, and for its capacity of being

ing worked either by men, horses, or water. To all improvements in implements of husbandry, his Grace was a liberal patron. This unparalleled farm-yard is in every respect admirable for its completeness, neatness, and utility.

To detail the variety of his Grace's farming pursuits, to enumerate his plans, and to follow him in all the public meetings and societies which he conducted or patronized, would alone occupy a very interesting volume.

Among other extraordinary exertions he selected and improved, with judgment and perseverance, two distinct stocks of sheep; one of them the favourite South Down breed, that was formerly peculiar to Sussex, but which is now spreading fast over every part of the kingdom: the other, the new Leicestershire or Bakewell breed, nearly as much esteemed as the former. These two stocks on his Grace's extensive domain, were kept entirely separate, under the management of different shepherds and different bailiffs.

In cattle, his Grace advanced with rapid strides towards perfection. He selected with extraordinary discernment, the valuable breeds which are found in Herefordshire, Devonshire, and Sussex, and had drawn together from those counties the most valuable individuals. He encouraged the use of oxen, and frequently attended the neighbouring fairs and markets; and examined the cattle and sometimes the shambles, to inspect the quality of the meat. With the farmers he was exceedingly familiar and communicative on agricultural topics.

In the practice of irrigation his Grace had been very successful, and had evinced its wonderful effects upon several hundred acres of land. The enclosures of common fields afforded him the opportunity of bringing into a high state of cultivation some thousand acres of land, which would otherwise have been for ever useless.

Of the grand annual sheepshearings, held at Woburn, some account will naturally be expected. These festivals continued several days, and the visitors, from one to two hundred noblemen and gentlemen farmers, were all the time hospitably entertained and usefully amused; the examination of the stock, of the implements, of the improvements in the grounds, and the adjudication of premiums for cattle and sheep, and ploughing, with agricultural conversation, were sources of information and employment. Each day and hour had its allotted business: the bell for breakfast rung at nine; an excursion occupied the time till three, when the dinner was served up in the great hall; coffee and horses at six were the signal for another excursion, till the close of day-light, when the company returned to supper. At the sheepshearing, in June 1799, from a hundred to a hundred and ninety sat down to dinner for five days successively, and there were present the Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Bath, the Earls of Egremont, Lauderdale, and Winchelsea, the Lords Sherborne, Preston, Ludlow, John, William, and Robert Russell, the President and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, the President of the Royal Society, and
a great

a great assemblage of gentlemen of fortune, of farmers, breeders, and graziers, from every part of the kingdom. Hospitality could not be more nobly, or more usefully exerted than on this occasion, by his Grace of Bedford, from whose magnificent mansion, and highly cultivated farm, every one went away equally well pleased and instructed. In this manner his occupations, and even his amusements, were all connected with public utility.

A greatness of mind was conspicuous in all his undertakings. Though better acquainted with matters of business in detail than most men, yet a greatness of design is evident in all his plans. The magnificence of the improvements on the Bloomsbury estate were correspondent to the taste of the proprietor.

The goodness of his heart and the excellence of his temper could be only known to those who enjoyed the happiness of his acquaintance.

While he lived for the public (for in every sense of the word, the Duke of Bedford was the *Man of the Public*) he was unfortunately inattentive to himself, and while he was exact and methodical to a great degree in the management of his affairs, he was often found negligent of those little comforts, which many persons in inferior situations are studious to enjoy. His private charities were great, but he was desirous of concealing them even from his most intimate friends. On the other hand, he took an active and conspicuous share in every public institution for the promotion of those arts which are most essential to the welfare of a country; and where his name and
example

example could be of service, they were never withheld. Though his income was immense, he never thought of reserving any part of it; it was all consumed by his bounty and his improvements; and so great and extensive were his plans, that, in the words of Mr. Fox, "his munificence might, if he had lived, have engaged him in expences to which even his princely fortune would have been found inadequate."

Such was the illustrious man who, unhappily for his country, was snatched away at a moment when society might have been expected to be long benefited by his benevolence, his energy, and his wisdom. The exit of the Duke of Bedford was in every respect conformable to the great and noble character which he had displayed in the scenes of life. His death was occasioned by an hernia, the consequence of a blow from a cricket ball, which he received at Westminster school. He had for some days been previously indisposed with a cold, which, it is supposed, he increased on Friday the 26th of February 1802, by playing at tennis, of which amusement he was fond. On that afternoon he was seized with a violent fit of coughing, and some symptoms appeared which indicated that a part of the intestine was forced down. On this occasion Dr. Kerr, of Northampton, was sent for, and he arrived about five o'clock on Saturday morning; but every effort to reduce the intestine proved unsuccessful. It was then his Grace's desire that Sir James Earle and Dr. Halifax should be sent for, who arrived at Woburn

at five on Saturday afternoon. The endeavours of Sir James to replace the intestine were, however, not more successful than the former, and it was decided that an immediate operation was necessary. With a cheerfulness and fortitude which is rarely manifested on such occasions, his Grace agreed to submit; but requested a respite of two hours to make some necessary arrangements. That space of time he spent in his study, and sealed up two large packets, directed to each of his brothers, Lord John and Lord William Russell. The painful operation was then performed, without a struggle and almost without a groan from the patient. After this his Grace appeared in some measure relieved, and enjoyed two hours sleep. On Sunday at noon, however, some alarming symptoms appeared, which ended in a mortification; and on Monday his life was despaired of. His Grace retained his mental faculties in full perfection to the last, and awaited his fate not merely with resignation, but with magnanimity. He conversed freely with his brothers and his solicitor concerning the arrangements to take place on his decease; but when Lord Lauderdale (his most intimate friend, who was himself in a very ill state of health, and had gone down from London to see him) requested admission, the Duke obstinately refused, alleging, that such a scene would be equally injurious to both. A little before his death, it is said, he seriously questioned his physicians respecting the period of existence which might still be remaining; and on asking their opinion if he had yet half an hour to live, he was answered

swered in the negative. He then raised his head, and desired that his brother John might be immediately sent for; and after conversing with him for some time, and taking an affectionate leave of both his brothers, and Lord Holland, who was also present, he expired in the arms of his brother, Lord John, at the hour of twelve, on Tuesday the 2d of March, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

The universal sorrow, the deep and general regret, which was expressed by all ranks on the loss of this truly excellent young man, is above all studied panegyric, and marks his value better than volumes written in his praise. Without having filled any public situation, without having enjoyed or dispensed the national patronage—having rather courted privacy and pursued the pleasures of retirement; to have died at so early an age, so universally lamented, argues no common merit; though neither a warrior nor a statesman, to have deserved monumental honours, publicly bestowed, is certainly a decisive proof that there must have been something extraordinary in a character which could excite such general attention. Many rich men—many of the highest rank, descend to their graves with almost as little notice as their inferiors in wealth and station; and that they have existed is only known by the enumeration of their titles and possessions inscribed upon their tombs.

MR. COWPER.

(WITH SOME ORIGINAL PIECES OF HIS POETRY.)

IT has been frequently observed, that the life of a man of genius is marked by few incidents. The mind, which grows up amidst the privacies of study, and the character, which is framed by solitary meditation, belong in a great degree to a world of their own, from which the passions and events of ordinary life are equally excluded. There is, therefore, nothing very remarkable in the life of the poet to whom these pages are devoted. But in the history of those who have done honour to the English nation, and added richness to the English language, no circumstance is trifling, and no incident unworthy of record; especially, as there is a sort of sanctity attached to these men, which diffuses itself to the minutest transaction in which they have been concerned.

Mr. Cowper was born at Berkhamstead, in Buckinghamshire, his father being the incumbent of the living of that place. He was descended from the first Earl Cowper, Lord Chancellor of England, his grandfather being one of the children of that nobleman.

Mr. Cowper received his education at Westminster school; and a place of considerable profit, that of the clerkship to the House of Lords, a patent office, and which had been a considerable time in the family, was reserved for him. But upon his quitting school and entering into the Temple, he found him-

self

self reluctant to undertake a function of activity and business. His native love of retirement, a constitutional timidity of mind, and the languor of a very weak and precarious state of health, discouraged him from undertaking the duties of a situation, which required the most unremitting attention and diligence.

About this time he lived in habits of close and familiar communication with Dr. Cotton, the elegant and ingenious author of the *Fire-side*. His intimacy with this gentleman must, in no inconsiderable degree, have contributed to his inclination for poetry, by the instructions and example of his friend. But the first foundation of his poetic excellence was laid by his familiarity with the best and most unaffected authors of antiquity.

At Huntingdon, a place in which he resided for a few years, he contracted a strong friendship with the Rev. Mr. Unwin, and on the death of that gentleman, accompanied his widow to Olney. It was in this village, and about this period of his life, that Mr. Cowper produced the earliest compositions that are traced to his pen. The poems he wrote upon this occasion, were hymns published in a collection called the *Olney Hymns*, and distinguished by the letter C. They bear internal evidence of a cultivated understanding, and an original genius. His time was now wholly dedicated to that literary leisure, in which the mind, left to its own operations, pursues that line of pursuit, which is the most congenial to its taste, and the most adapted to its powers. In his garden, in his library, and in his daily walks, he seems to have

disciplined his muse to the picturesque and vivid habits of description, which will always distinguish Cowper among our national poets. No writer, with the exception only of Thomson, seems to have studied nature with more diligence, and to have copied her with more fidelity. An advantage which he has gained over other men, by his disdaining to study her "through the spectacles of books," as Dryden calls it, and by his pursuing her through her haunts, and watching her in all her attitudes, with the eye of a philosopher as well as of a poet.

Mr. Cowper had no propensity for public life; it was not, therefore, singular that he should have neglected the study of the law, on which he had entered. That knowledge of active life which is so requisite for the legal profession, would scarcely be acquired in lonely wanderings on the banks of the Ouse, and in silent contemplations of the beauties of nature. In this retreat, he exchanged for the society and converse of the muses, the ambition and tumult of a forensic life; dedicating his mind to the cultivation of poetry, and storing it with those images, which he derived from the inexhaustible treasury of a rich and varied scenery in a most beautiful and romantic country.

The first volume of poems which he published, consists of various pieces, on various subjects. It seems that he had been assiduous in cultivating a turn for grave and argumentative versification, on moral and ethical topics. Of this kind is the *Table Talk*, and several other pieces in the collection. He, who

who objects to these poems as containing too great a neglect of harmony in the arrangement of his words, and the use of expressions too prosaic, will condemn him on principles of criticism which are by no means just, if the object and style of the subject be considered. Horace apologized for the carelessness of his own satires, which are, strictly speaking, only ethical and moral discourses, by observing that those topics required the *pedestrian*, and familiar diction, and a form of expression not elevated to the heights of poetry. But, if the reader will forego the delight of smooth versification, and recollect that poetry does not altogether consist in even and polished metre, he will remark in these productions no ordinary depth of thinking and of judgment, upon the most important objects of human concernment; and he will be occasionally struck with lines, not unworthy of Dryden for their strength and dignity.

The lighter poems are well known. Of these, the verses supposed to be written by Alexander Selkirk, on the island of Juan Fernandez, are in the most popular estimation. There is great originality in the following stanza.

I am out of humanity's reach;
I must finish my journey alone;
Never hear the sweet music of speech;
I start at the sound of my own.

It would be absurd to give one general character of the pieces that were published in this volume: yet this is true concerning Mr. Cowper's productions; that in all the varieties of his style there may still be

discerned the likeness and impression of the same mind; the same unaffected modesty which always rejects unseasonable ambitions and ornaments of language; the same easy vigour; the same serene and cheerful hope derived from a steady and unshaken faith in the dogmas of Christianity.

I am not prepared to affirm that Mr. Cowper derives any praise from the choice and elegance of his words; but he has the higher praise of having chosen them without affectation. He appears to have used them as he found them; neither introducing fastidious refinements, nor adhering to obsolete barbarisms. He understands the whole science of numbers, and he has practised their different kinds with considerable happiness; and if his verses do not flow so softly as the delicacy of a modern ear requires, that roughness, which is objected to his poetry, is his choice, not his defect. But this sort of critics, who admire only what is exquisitely polished, these lovers of "gentleness without sinews,"* ought to take into their estimate that vast effusion of thought, which is so abundantly poured over the writings of Mr. Cowper, without which human discourse is only an idle combination of sounds and syllables.

After an interval of a few years, his *Task* was ushered into the world. This work has stamped upon Mr. Cowper the character of a poet. The occasion that gave birth to it was a trivial one. A lady had requested him to write a piece in blank verse, and gave

* Dr. Sprat's *Life of Cowley*.

him the sofa for his subject. This he expanded into one of the finest moral poems of which the English language has been productive.

It is written in blank verse, of which the construction, though in some respects resembling Milton's, is truly original and characteristic. It is not too stately for familiar description, nor too depressed for sublime and elevated imagery. If it has any fault, it is that of being too much laden with idiomatic expression, a fault which the author, in the rapidity with which his ideas and his utterance seem to have flowed, very naturally incurred.

In this poem his fancy ran with the most excursive freedom. The poet enlarges upon his topics, and confirms his argument by every variety of illustration. He never, however, dwells upon them too long, and leaves off in such a manner, that it seems it was in his power to have said more.

The arguments of the poem are various: the works of nature, the associations with which they exhibit themselves, the designs of Providence, and the passions of men. Of one advantage the writer has amply availed himself. The work not being rigidly confined to any precise subject, he has indulged himself in all the laxity and freedom of a miscellaneous poem. Yet he has still adhered so faithfully to the general laws of congruity, that whether he inspires the softer affections into his reader, or delights him with keen and playful raillery, or discourses on the ordinary manners of human nature, or holds up the bright pictures of religious consolation to his mind, he

he adopts, at pleasure, a diction just and appropriate, equal in elevation to the sacred effusions of Christian rapture, and sufficiently easy and familiar for descriptions of domestic life; skilful alike in soaring without effort and descending without meanness.

He who desires to put into the hands of youth a poem which, not destitute of poetic embellishment, is free from all matter of a licentious tendency, will find in the Task a book adapted to his purpose. It would be the part of an absurd and extravagant austerity, to condemn those poetical productions in which the passion of love constitutes the primary feature. In every age that passion has been the concernment of life, the theme of the poet, the plot of the stage. Yet there is a sort of amorous sensibility, bordering almost on morbid enthusiasm, which the youthful mind too frequently imbibes from the glowing sentiments of the poets. Their genius describes, in the most splendid colours, the operations of a passion which requires rebuke instead of incentive, and lends to the most grovelling sensuality the enchantments of a rich and creative imagination. But in the Task of Cowper, there is no licentiousness of description. All is grave, and majestic, and moral. A vein of religious thinking pervades every page, and he discourses, in a strain of the most finished poetry, on the insufficiency and vanity of human pursuits.

Nor is he always severe. He is perpetually enlivening the mind of his reader by sportive descriptions, and by representing, in elevated measures, ludicrous objects and circumstances, a species of the mock-

mock-heroic, of which Philips * was the first author. In this latter sort of style Mr. Cowper has displayed great powers of versification, and great talents for humour. Of this, the historical account he has given of chairs, in the first book of the Task, is a striking specimen.

The attention, however, is the most detained by those passages, in which the charms of rural life, and the endearments of domestic retirement, are portrayed. It is in vain to search in any poet of antient or modern times for more pathetic touches of representation. The Task abounds with incidents, introduced as episodes, and interposing an agreeable relief to the grave and serious parts of the poetry. Who has not admired his crazy Kate? a description in which the calamity of a disordered reason is painted with admirable exactness and simplicity.

“ She begs an idle pin of all she meets.”

It were an endless task to point out the beauties of the poem. It is now established in its reputation, and, by universal consent, it has given Cowper a very high place amongst our national poets. Let those who cannot perceive its beauties, dwell with rapture on its defects. The taste or the sensibility of that man is little to be envied who, in the pride of a fastidious criticism, would be reluctant in attributing to Mr. Cowper the praise and character of a poet, because in the tide and rapidity of his fancy he has not been scrupulous in the arrangement of a word or the adjustment of a cadence.

* The Splendid Shilling.

The next work, which Mr. Cowper published, was a translation of the *Iliad*, and the *Odyssey*. The design was worthy of his talents. His object was to present the father of poesy to the English reader, not in English habiliments, and modern attire, but in the graceful and antique habit of his own times. He therefore adopted blank verse. Rhyme, by the uniformity of its cadence, and the restrictions which it imposed, rendered the task of translation evidently a paraphrase, because the poet, who could not express the meaning of his author in phrase and diction that would accord with his own numbers, must be, of necessity, compelled to mix his own meaning with his author's, to soften, and dilute it, as it were, to his own versification. This is the disadvantage of Mr. Pope's *Homer*; a work, which it were blasphemy to despise, and folly to undervalue, while variety and harmony of numbers retain their dominion over the mind of man. Yet no one will deny, that Mr. Pope has frequently forgotten *Horner*; and that in some passages he has impaired the strength, and debased the majesty of his original. Let it be remembered however, that it is no mean honour to any poet to have followed the bold and lofty steps of the divine bard; and that he is not to be censured, though he should lag behind him in his course through that sublime region, which *Homer* only could tread with safety, and with confidence.

Quid enim contendat hirundo
Cycnis? aut quidnam tremulis facere artibus hædi
Consimile in cursu possint ac fortis equi vis. LUCRET.

It

It is a wanton and foolish criticism to compare the translation of Mr. Pope with that of Mr. Cowper. The merits of each are distinct and appropriate. Mr. Pope has exhibited Homer as he would have sung, had he been born in England. Mr. Cowper has attempted to pourtray him, as he wrote in Greece, adhering frequently to the peculiarities of his own idiom, and endeavouring to preserve his strength and energy, as well as his harmony and smoothness.

This was the last literary offering of this celebrated poet to the world. He had long been afflicted with a severe and lingering illness, which terminated in his death on the 25th April 1800, at East Dereham in Norfolk.

The most trifling pieces from such a poet as Cowper cannot but be acceptable to every reader of taste and feeling. The two following are selected from some fugitive pieces which have not yet been published.

The poplars are fell'd, and adieu to the shade,
And the whispering sound of the cool colonnade;
The winds play no longer, and sing in their leaves,
Nor the Ouse, on its surface, their image receives.

Twelve years had elaps'd since I last took a view
Of my favourite field, and the place where they grew;
When, behold, on their sides, in the grass they were laid,
And I sate on the trees under which I had stray'd.

The blackbird has sought out another retreat,
Where the hazels afford him a screen from the heat;
And the scene where his notes have oft charm'd me before,
Shall resound with his smooth-flowing ditty no more.

My

My fugitive years are all hasting away,
 And I must myself lie as lowly as they,
 With a turf at my breast, and a stone at my head,
 Ere another such grove rises up in its stead.

The change both my heart and my fancy employs;
 I reflect on the frailty of man and his joys;
 Short liv'd as we are, yet our pleasures, we see,
 Have a still shorter date and die sooner than we.

FROM THE ANNUAL BILL OF MORTALITY,
 NORTHAMPTON.

—Placidq: ibi demum morte quievit. VIRG.
 Then calm at length he breath'd his soul away.

“ Oh most delightful hour by man
 “ Experienc'd here below;
 “ The hour that terminates his span,
 “ His folly and his woe.

“ Worlds should not bribe me back to tread
 “ Again life's dreary waste;
 “ To see my days again o'erspread
 “ With all the gloomy past.

“ My home, henceforth, is in the skies,
 “ Earth, seas, and sun adieu:
 “ All heaven unfolded to my eyes,
 “ I have no sight for you.”

Thus spake Aspatio, firm possest
 Of Faith's supporting rod:
 Then breath'd his soul into its rest,
 The bosom of his God.

He was a man among the few
 Sincere on Virtue's side,
 And all his strength from scripture drew,
 To hourly use apply'd.

That

That rule he priz'd, by that he fear'd,
 He hated, hop'd, and lov'd,
 Nor ever frown'd or sad appear'd,
 But when his heart had rov'd.

For he was frail as thou or I,
 And evil felt within,
 But when he felt it, heav'd a sigh,
 And loath'd the thought of sin.

Such liv'd Aspatio, and at last
 Call'd up from earth to heaven;
 The gulf of death triumphant pass'd
 By gales of blessing driven.

His joys be MINE, each reader cries,
 When my last hour arrives :
 They shall be yours, my verse replies,
 Such ONLY be your lives.

MISS LINWOOD.

WERE any sculptor of the present day to give to his figures the correctness and character, energy and ease, which we see displayed in those unrivalled models of ancient art which were wrought in Greece, we should class him as the Shakespear of his profession, conceive that he had discovered the scale by which some writers have supposed the ancient sculptors performed these prodigies of art, and venerate his name for having restored an art the world had long lost, and despaired of retrieving.

A portion of the praise which would be bestowed on such a man, is certainly due to the Lady whose name is at the head of this article, for she has awakened

ened from its long sleep, an art which gave birth to painting, and the needle is, in her hands, become a formidable rival to the pencil. She has realised, in the most glowing colours, those splendid wonders that were recorded by Homer, and other ancient poets; for that *the labours of the loom*, so often alluded to by bards of other days,

“ When purple hangings cloth’d the palace walls,”

were *the art of making pictures on tapestry*, there can be no doubt.

The progress of this branch of the arts in Great Britain is curious. In the first samples, or rather samplers, when it was in its infancy, we see the Lord’s prayer, or the ten commandments, surmounted by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, or Daniel in the den of the lions; which, in massy Gothic frames, were wont to decorate the walls of our ancient gentry. The first curious pieces of needle-work, that I recollect to have seen recorded, are a suit of chair bottoms, worked by, and under the direction of, Queen Mary, consisting of some heavy trophies in honour of her heroic husband. These were, probably, laboured, loaded, and tasteless, and almost all the early specimens that we have seen may be very fairly put in the same class.

Since the accession of our present king, the art has awakened from its long sleep. In the beginning of his reign, the wife of Worlidge, the painter, copied some prints in needle-work, which, though dry and feeble, excited considerable attention.

About

About twenty-eight years ago several of the orphan daughters of clergymen, patronized and protected by her majesty, and under the direction of Mrs. Wright, wrought in needle-work some bed-furniture, and several other things which beam with taste and elegance.*

To these may be added the works of Mrs. Knowles,† who to some of her fruit-pieces has given

“The glow of nature and the bloom of spring.”

We might grace this list with many other names ; but to Miss Linwood was reserved the pre-eminent distinction of producing a collection, which, considering its magnitude and excellence, must be deemed a monument, not only of uncommon genius, but of an industry and perseverance which surpasses the long labours of Penelope at her procrastinated web. Her works exhibit an honourable history of that part of her life which is past ; but as her talents entitle her to a place in this miscellany, and as many of the many thousands who have visited her exhibition will naturally wish to know some particulars of the creator of *that world of wonders*, we have endeavoured to procure all the information we could of a lady who, by the efforts of original genius and exquisite taste, has added to the arts of England, a monument unrivalled

* This establishment, so honourable to her majesty, is still continued ; she allows 500l. per annum for the education and accomplishment of five orphan daughters of clergymen.

† The Quaker, widow of the late Dr. Knowles.

in its nature and extent by any human labour on the surface of the globe.

Miss Linwood's family is of Northamptonshire, where they have resided for some ages in situations highly respectable. She was born in Warwickshire, and has, from her early years, resided in Leicester; in which town and county she is highly respected by the principal families, and beloved by the poor for her numerous acts of kindness and benevolence. The ladies of Great Britain may boast in Miss Linwood an example of the force and energy of the female mind, free from any of those ungrateful and masculine manners which have not unfrequently accompanied the strength of genius in women. Had Miss Linwood never been known to the world by her works, she would still have been deserving of honourable mention among the ornaments of her sex, for the accomplishments of her mind, the strength of her understanding, the sweetness of her disposition, and the correctness, the liberality and benevolence of her conduct in every stage of her life.

Like many other persons who have received a bias to what has marked and done honour to their future lives by very trivial causes, this lady owes her first thought of an art, in which she has so highly distinguished herself, to a very trifling circumstance.

About the year 1782, a friend sent her a large collection of prints in the various styles of stroke, mezzotinto, &c. They were left with no other view than that of affording her a few days amusement.

Inspecting

Inspecting them with the eye of genius, she conceived that the force of an engraving might be united with the softness of a mezzotinto. Unacquainted with the use of aqua fortis in etching, a stranger to the mode of scraping a mezzotinto, and totally ignorant of the art of engraving in stroke, and the whole use of the burin, she had no instrument but her needle to make the experiment. With that she endeavoured to realize and embody her first idea, by copying such prints as most struck her attention, with the rovings of black and puce-coloured silk upon white sarsnet. The needle, in her hands, became like the spear of Ithuriel; she touched her ground-work, her figures assumed form and started into life.

Encouraged by the applause which was bestowed on her first works, she made copies of a still larger size; and the Empress of Russia being then considered as the grand protector of genius, and seeming desirous of making her court the repository of every great work of art which was produced in Europe, Miss Linwood was advised to present a specimen to the Empress. Not knowing the extent of her own powers, nor having then thought of making a collection, she consented, and consigned a large picture to Petersburg, which, in October 1783, was presented to her Imperial Majesty by her then favourite General Landskoy. She expressed the highest admiration of the performance, said it was an exquisite work, and, in that branch of art, unquestionably the finest in the world, and ordered Landskoy to make such a present to the artist as should be

worthy of the work and of herself. But death countermanded the commands of the Empress, for the General departed this life a few weeks afterwards, nor dared any one in the court of Petersburg mention either his name, or aught in which he had been a party, to the Imperial Catherine. But, however neglected the artist, the picture is highly distinguished, and now occupies a favourite situation in the Emperor's palace.

The first attempt Miss Linwood made to imitate paintings was in 1785, and she so far succeeded, that in 1786 she submitted to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. the St. Peter, from Guido; the Head of Lear, from Sir Joshua Reynolds; and a Hare, from the Houghton collection. For this the society voted her a medal, on which is engraven, between two branches of laurel, "EXCELLENT IMITATIONS OF PICTURES IN NEEDLE-WORK." The writer of this article remembers to have seen, and much admired these exquisite specimens of the art.

Between that period and 1789, she made great additions to her collection, and in that year copied the Salvator Mundi, from a picture, by Guido, in the collection of the Earl of Exeter; for which exquisite production, the writer has been informed, on authority which he confides in, she was once offered the immense sum of three thousand guineas.

In ancient times it was customary for ladies to present scarfs to their favourite heroes; but *the days of chivalry are no more*; Miss Linwood has, however, had the honour of having wrought the first
banner

banner that was offered to any association during the revolutionary war, which she presented to the united *corps* of cavalry and yeomanry of Leicestershire. It is her own composition, extremely well conceived, and finished with a neatness that has been rarely united with so much force.

We have been informed that Miss L. was never regularly instructed in drawing, but certain it is that she has uncommon merit in painting, both in crayons, distemper, and colours, draws with accuracy, taste, and spirit, and in her paintings at the Leicester ball-room, &c. the perspective is precisely correct.

The circumstance to which the public are indebted for Miss Linwood's exhibition of her works is the law of the Royal Academy, which, like that of the Medes and Persians, *altereth not*, and which rejects every thing in needlework.

If, however, this law prevented the rooms of the Royal Academy from being honoured by the reception of her works, the late and the present president of the Royal Academy, and almost every other artist of eminence in the kingdom, have bestowed upon them the highest and most generous praise; and Sir Joshua Reynolds gave a sanction to his approbation, by pointing out which of his own pictures would have the best effect in her copies.

This admirable exhibition has been very much enriched since its first opening; especially by the *Woodman in a storm*, and the *Shepherd's Boy*, from the late inimitable Gainsborough, and *Lady Jane Grey*, and *Ephraim and Manasseh*, from Northcote.

We shall conclude this article by the following generous and just tribute of an elegant young poetess, Miss Lucy Aikin, which appeared in the Monthly Magazine.

ON MISS LINWOOD'S ADMIRABLE PICTURES IN
NEEDLE-WORK.

When Egypt's sons, a rude, untutor'd race,
Learn'd, with wild forms, the obelisk to grace,
And mould the idol god in ductile earth,
The loom and polish'd needle took their birth.
When doom'd to dull obscurity no more,
Fair Science reign'd on each surrounding shore,
And stretch'd her arm o'er Greece and early Rome,
Still in her train appear'd the labours of the loom.
When Gothic night o'erwhelm'd the cheerful day,
And sculpture, painting, all neglected lay,
And furious man, creation's savage lord,
Knew but the hunter's spear, the murderer's sword;
Our softer sex emboss'd the broider'd vest,
In flowery robe the blooming hero drest;
Or rang'd in tap'stry's glowing colours bright
The mimic crests, and long embattled fight.
Now learning's better sun-beam shone anew,
And Gothic horrors gloomy night withdrew;
Again Prometheus wak'd the senseless clay,
Grace, beauty, order, leap'd to second day.
Most did the manly arts its influence feel,
The pencil chas'd the housewife's humbler steel;
Rent was the aged tap'stry from the wall,
Exulting genius gloried in its fall;
To monstrous shapes, and hideous forms uncouth,
Succeeded nature fair, angelic truth;
The artist, man, awoke the victor's lay,
And women's labours crumbled in decay.
Then LINWOOD rose, inspir'd at once to give
The matchless grace that bids the picture live;

With

With the bold air, the lovely lasting dye,
That fills at once and charms the wondering eye.
Hail! better Amazon, to thee belong
The critic's plaudits and the poet's song;
To thee may Fame no barren laurels bring,
But flowery wreaths that bud each rising spring.

L. A.

LORD KENYON.

NO profession has afforded better opportunity for the exercise of great talent, and none has rewarded it with higher honours or higher emolument than that of the law. It is a profession also which has this peculiar advantage, that it offers encouragement to that sort of skill, which is within the reach of moderate abilities, but which is only acquired by long habits of diligent research and patient assiduity.

No man ever set out upon his career with fewer advantages, derived from nature, or fortune, or connexion, than the subject of these memoirs. He was born at Greddington, in Flintshire, in which county his father resided on his estate, and filled the office of justice of the peace. Mr. Kenyon was educated at Ruthin, in Denbighshire, and at a very early age was removed by the choice of his parents, in order to be placed in the office of Mr. Tomlinson, an eminent attorney at Nantwich, in Cheshire, as an articulated clerk.

At the expiration of his articles, Mr. Tomlinson died, and as it was intended that Mr. Kenyon should have carried on the practice in conjunction with that gentleman, an important change took place in the

destination of his life. Determined to adventure on the wider space of exertion, which the profession of a counsel allotted to him, he entered at Lincoln's Inn in Trinity Term 1754, and was called to the bar in Hilary Term 1761.

During the first years of his profession, Mr. Kenyon's advancement was slow. It was probably retarded by those causes, which must always operate against professional men, who are not pushed into notice by the exertions and recommendations of strong and powerful connexions. And, it would be no derogation from the talents of Mr. Kenyon, if it were remarked, that he was not fitted by the peculiar powers of his mind, and the appropriate character of his genius, to make an impression at first in any respect adequate to the solidity and depth of his judgment. The department of the science on which he has been most intensely occupied, has been that of conveyancing; a line of the profession which peculiarly demands habits of precise and patient industry, rather than splendid exertions of talent.

But the merit of Mr. Kenyon, as a sound lawyer and an industrious practitioner, was by no means overlooked. He rose into practice gradually, but his footing was sure and strong. The greater part of his business was what is called chamber business; that of giving opinions on cases submitted to his judgment, and of drawing conveyances, and bills in equity. In this branch of the profession, he arrived at very considerable eminence, and no legal opinion
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carried with it more weight and authority than that of Mr. Kenyon.

About this time he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Thurlow, afterwards Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, a circumstance to which some have attributed his rise at the Chancery bar; but it is surely more probable, that he ensured his success by his own talents and application. In the Court of Chancery his practice was very extensive and lucrative; and he had already acquired a very large fortune by his business in that court, when, in the year 1782, he was appointed attorney-general, and chief justice of Chester. In his promotion to the attorney-generalship, Mr. Kenyon is a singular instance of the acquisition of that honour, without serving the intermediate office of solicitor-general.

About this period, he was brought into Parliament, and in the memorable debates on Mr. Fox's coalition took a very zealous and animated part against that unfortunate measure. As a political character he was exposed to satirical merriment in the facetious criticisms of the *Rolliad*, prefixed to which there is a very admirable likeness of Sir Lloyd Kenyon, as Master of the Rolls. To this latter office he was appointed in the year 1784, a place of considerable rank and honour in the profession, but by no means equal in emolument to the lucrative income he derived from his professional exertions.

In this situation he remained till 1788, when the venerable Earl of Mansfield resigned his seat on the bench, to the great regret of the bar and the country,

try, after having presided so many years in the court of King's Bench, with a dignity and firmness so highly honourable to his judicial character. It is said that this great man maintained a struggle with his increasing infirmities, and kept his situation, notwithstanding the weakness of his health, for the purpose of procuring his vacant seat for a judge to whom he was personally attached by long habits of friendship. Sir Lloyd Kenyon, however, received this great distinction on the resignation of Lord Mansfield, and was at the same time honoured with a peerage.

A function of such extensive influence, and occupying so vast a space in the eyes of mankind, necessarily exposes the character and the conduct of those who exercise it, to much scrutiny and animadversion. He who is placed at the head of the first criminal and civil judicature of the country, in which the most momentous controversies of law are decided, and the most solemn questions of property adjusted, must be clothed with more than human perfection, to escape censure and imputation. Of the integrity of Lord Kenyon, no dispute ever entered into the mind of any one, who has been at all conversant with the business of our courts of justice. There is however an excess of zeal in morals as well as in religion, which may occasionally betray the best and the wisest men into intemperance and vehemence of expression. Perhaps the noble judge was sometimes carried away by this generous enthusiasm. But much ought to be indulged to feeling when it

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is on the side of virtue; and that is a cold and austere philosophy which would restrain the sensibilities of an honest mind, when they are employed in the service of good morals and religion.

In exhibiting an impartial character of Lord Kenyon, it is impossible not to advert to the quickness and irritability of his temper. These unquestionably are not judicial qualities. Succeeding to a man so remarkable for the mildness and urbanity of his manners, it is not extraordinary, that too much animadversion should have been exercised on the temper of the noble judge. The want of courteousness is more peculiarly noticed in a situation of such high rank and such honourable estimation; and it cannot be dissembled, that there is nothing more directly derogatory to the dignity of the judicial character, than the exhibition of fretful and choleric dispositions.

If the name of Lord Kenyon descends to posterity, it will descend with the praises of all good men, for his firm and persevering exertions to keep the channels of law clear and unpolluted by low and sordid practices. Over the attornies of his court, he exercised a vigilant and salutary authority, of which the utility has been already very extensively experienced. No profession contains within it more honourable and upright practisers; none has afforded greater encouragement to low and desperate adventurers. These are evils inseparable from the profession; but it is the duty of those entrusted with the administration of the laws, to preserve their purity and

and soundness, as far as human caution and vigilance can be extended. These low pettifoggers in law, the professors of mean quibbles and despicable evasions, have contributed to bring law itself into dishonourable estimation, among those who, from these partial abuses, are led into unjust inferences against the system itself. But it ought to be remembered, that, by the ordinary dispensations of Providence, great evils grow up with great benefits; and that the worst and most pestilential evils are engendered in the heat and luxuriance of the greatest of our blessings.

Nor can it be forgotten, in a review of the public character of Lord Kenyon, that he most effectually vindicated the cause of virtue and morality, in those trials of adultery, which, at different times, came before him. He ever expressed a virtuous indignation in terms at once impressive and appropriate. Neither rank, nor wealth, nor station, are protected from the just animadversion they incur in these loathsome and detestable transactions; and under his Lordship's directions, the most exemplary damages have been awarded to plaintiffs, in those cases which have appeared under any circumstances of aggravation.

Another feature of Lord Kenyon's magisterial character is to be discerned in the severity with which he administered the justice of the land, on the pernicious tribe of gamblers who have for some years infested this metropolis. This has proved a difficult but not impracticable undertaking; the vice having imperceptibly

imperceptibly tainted the morals of the people in every condition of life; a vice, however, by no means natural to Englishmen, but the fruit of those foreign importations, which, with the manners and luxuries, have introduced the follies and profligacy of other countries.

It would probably have contributed more to the genuine and durable reputation of his Lordship, if he had on no occasion exhibited, in his judicial station, a mind heated and exasperated by the politics of the day. It is a reflection, which ought to be impressed on the minds of all in high and elevated rank, that the fame which is acquired by a subservience to the intrigue or passions of the times, is fugitive and precarious; that the instrument of a party is soon forgotten, and the very memorial of his name soon buried in oblivion. But he who, in the discharge of his duties to his country, holds a steady course betwixt the contending factions, neither tempted by the hope of professional preferment, nor terrified by the menaces of ministerial hatred, has secured a reputation, which is beyond the reach of political caprice, or personal malice.

In 1773 Lord Kenyon married his cousin Mary, daughter of George Kenyon, Esq. of Peele, in Lancashire, by whom he had three sons; the eldest of whom died in the year 1800.*

In private life Lord Kenyon was much and de-

* The domestic affliction which he sustained in the loss of his eldest son preyed much upon his health, and doubtlessly hastened his death. His Lordship died in May 1802.

servedly esteemed. He was perhaps one of the most temperate and regular men of his rank. He rose by six in the morning, and retired to rest, except when engaged in public business, by ten in the evening. He seldom drank wine or spirits, was always punctual in his attendance at divine service, and in his family and among his relatives was greatly respected and beloved. His benevolent attention to the numerous distressed and injured persons, who applied to him for legal advice, was an amiable trait of his character.

MR. WARREN HASTINGS.

THE prospects of Mr. Hastings, in the early part of his life, were not very favourable. Although descended from an ancient family that formerly held considerable landed possessions, his more immediate ancestors were not in affluent circumstances. His father, who was a clergyman, and enjoyed a benefice at Churchill, a village near Daylesford, in Worcestershire,* seems to have left him without fortune: for the expence as well as the care of his education devolved on an uncle, Mr. Howard Hastings, who sent him to Westminster school; on whose death he was thrown entirely on the benevolence of strangers, Doctor Nichols, the head master of Westminster, having generously offered to furnish money to complete his education at Oxford, where he then was,

* Vide the Memoirs of Mr. Greaves in the early part of the volume.

and Mr. Creswick, an India Director and executor to his uncle, proposing to send him to Bengal with a writer's appointment. Whatever Mr. Hastings' pecuniary circumstances were at this period, the offer of Dr. Nichols is a strong presumption in behalf of his talents and character as a youth; and the philosopher may be allowed to lament that he did not prefer a continuance at college, where there was a chance of his becoming a benefactor to human nature, through the medium of literary employments.

Mr. Hastings accepted of the India Director's offer; and, sailing from England in the winter of 1749, arrived at Calcutta in the ensuing summer. The education of Mr. Hastings for public life may be properly dated from this period. Mr. Hastings says of himself, in his defence during the impeachment, "With the year 1750, I entered the service of the East India Company; and from that service I have derived all my official habits, all the knowledge which I possess, and all the principles which were to regulate my conduct in it." This school, it must be confessed, is not very fit to produce a mind of comprehensive philanthropy. An able agent for a trading company, or a skilful task-master of provinces subjugated to a foreign yoke, it might well prepare; but it seems to possess no circumstances that in their nature could go beyond those objects. Whatever were its capacities, Mr. Hastings was fairly provided to avail himself of them all. He was acute, observing, and enterprising; and he was soon placed in the midst of affairs, with great exterior advantages. He
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was at first attached to one of the factories in Bengal; from which he was soon sent on business into the interior parts of that province, where to novelty of scene were added opportunity for study, and various interesting motives for enquiry. Mr. Hastings was not accustomed to throw away any means of improvement. He applied himself assiduously to the study of the Persian language; to the general cultivation of his talents; and to a minute observation of the circumstances and nature of the English establishments in India.

In 1756, Surajah Doula, having made himself master of Calcutta, issued orders for the seizing of all the English in Bengal, and Mr. Hastings was one of those who were carried prisoners to Moorshadabad, that tyrant's capital. Even at that court, Mr. Hastings had already acquired protectors. He received many marks of favour; and was permitted to reside at the Dutch factory of Calcapore. When Colonel Clive (afterwards Lord Clive) retook Calcutta, Mr. Hastings served as a volunteer in his army, and was present at the night attack of the Nabob's camp.

On the restoration of the company's affairs by Colonel Clive, Mr. Hastings returned to his civil employments; and when Surajah Doula was deposed, Mr. Hastings was appointed the English minister at the court of his successor. In that post he recommended himself to further notice; and, in 1761, was made a member of the government of Bengal. He returned to England about four years after this last appointment;

appointment ; but having brought with him only part of his acquisitions, and his remittances of the remainder in some manner failing, he endeavoured to make interest to return to India ; and it is a curious fact, that this man, who afterwards became all powerful with the company, could not at that time obtain such a permission.

Mr. Hastings now lived in England, cultivating literature, and enjoying the society of men of genius ; among whom were the great Lord Mansfield and Dr. Samuel Johnson.* In 1766, the year after his return, he made a proposition to establish a professorship of the Persian language at Oxford, with a view, among other motives, to his obtaining the emoluments of that situation, in aid of his own income, which is said to have been very narrow : but a surprising revolution was preparing in his fortunes. In the winter of the same year, Mr. Hastings, being examined at the bar of the House of Commons, during an en-

* Three letters to him from the Doctor have been preserved by Mr. Boswell ; who, speaking of the condescension with which Mr. Hastings communicated to him these letters, delineates the following short sketch of his character : “ Warren Hastings, a man whose regard reflects dignity even upon Johnson ; a man, the extent of whose abilities was equal to that of his power ; and who, by those who are fortunate enough to know him in private life, is admired for his literature and taste, and beloved for the candour, moderation, and mildness, of his character. Were I capable of paying a suitable tribute of admiration to him, I should certainly not withhold it at a moment when it is not possible that I should be suspected of being an interested flatterer. But how weak would be my voice, after that of millions whom he governed !”

quiry into the affairs of the company, attracted general notice : and in 1767, he was appointed a member of the council of Madras ; with a provision that he was to succeed to the government of that presidency. Mr. Hastings remained in that situation till 1771, when the company appointed him governor of Bengal. In 1773, he was named governor-general of Bengal for five years, under the authority of an act of parliament. In 1778, he was continued for one year more ; in 1779, again for one year ; in 1781, for ten years ; and in 1784, his appointment was confirmed by the act of parliament that formed the present government of India. In 1785, however, he returned to England, having been at the head of the government of Bengal more than thirteen years, and possessing, during that time, absolute power over an extent of territory as large and as populous as all the nations of Europe united !

It is impossible for any man of integrity hastily to touch the scenes of Mr. Hastings' interesting and splendid government in India, without apprehension and uneasiness. To screen the public delinquent, is among the greatest of public crimes ; and to traduce the character of individuals is the blackest of private wrongs ; but to shun both of these mistakes, would demand a quantity of time, and a laboriousness of investigation that is not to be expected in a work of this kind. It is, perhaps, the just mean to decline the discussion here of the moral character of Mr. Hastings's government, and to furnish a mere sketch of the prominent events,

The government of Bengal, with Mr. Hastings at its head, was vested, in 1772, with almost unlimited powers. It had been the custom, from the time the company acquired the sovereignty of that immense province, in 1765, to intrust the departments of the revenues and of judicial proceedings to ministers, natives of the country. The annual revenues were a million below the sum they were calculated to produce. Mr. Hastings effected a great revolution. He changed the whole face of the interior administration in the departments of finance and judicature. He had scarcely time to breathe from these operations, when war broke out with France, and the English territories in India were at once pressed by a great force from Europe, and the principal native powers of the country. In the midst of these difficulties Mr. Hastings had to contend a long time with a powerful opposition in his own council. In defiance of so many untoward circumstances, the company's affairs wore a better aspect. Their annual revenue was increased from three to five millions. Their enemies among the native princes were destroyed, or won to their alliance—and India had even something to offer to France towards the adjustment of peace for England. Nothing of all this can be denied. Perhaps under the mixed system of trade and conquest that belongs to the English possessions of India, no man could have done more than Mr. Hastings did for his employers. But then, it is still to be asked—what was the price suffering humanity gave

for a trading company's increase of revenue, and acquisitions of territory?

During Mr. Hastings' administration, the affairs of the company and the conduct of their servants in India were the subjects of various discussions and proceedings in the House of Commons. Twice a vote passed for the recall of Mr. Hastings. On one of these occasions, the house came to that resolution on the following motion of Mr. Dundas, lately one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

"That Warren Hastings, Esq. governor-general of Bengal, and William Hornby, Esq. president of the council at Bombay, having, in sundry instances, acted in a manner repugnant to the honor and policy of this nation, and thereby brought great calamities on India, and enormous expences on the East India Company, it is the duty of the directors of the said company to pursue all legal and effectual means for the removal of the said governor-general and president from their respective offices, and to recall them to Great Britain."

In consequence of these votes, the directors came to correspondent resolutions; but their measures were defeated by subsequent resolutions of the proprietors, the majority of whom were bent on continuing Mr. Hastings in his employment.

On the 20th of June 1785, the day of Mr. Hastings' arrival in England, Mr. Burke gave notice of his intention to move an impeachment of him in the ensuing session. On the 4th of April 1796,
Mr.

Mr. Burke exhibited twenty articles of impeachment against Mr. Hastings, to which he afterwards added two more : * but it was not till April 10th, 1787, that

* The twenty-two articles occupy an octavo volume of 460 closely printed pages; the following are their substance :

I. With gross injustice, cruelty, and treachery against the faith of nations, in hiring British soldiers for the purpose of extirpating the innocent and helpless people who inhabited the Rohillas.

II. With using the authority delegated to him through the East India Company, for treating the King Shaw Allum, Emperor of Indostan, or otherwise the Great Mogul, with the greatest cruelty, in bereaving him of considerable territory, and withholding forcibly that tribute of 26 lacks of rupees, which the company engaged to pay as an annual tribute or compensation for their holding in his name the Duannee of the rich and valuable provinces of Bengal, and Bahar, and Orissa.

III. With various instances of extortion, and other deeds of mal-administration against the Rajah of Benares. This article consisted of three different parts, in each of which Mr. Hastings was charged with the most wanton oppressions and cruelties.—He gave in papers concerning the rights of the Rajah, his expulsion, and the sundry revolutions which have been effected by the British influence under the controul of the late governor-general in that zemindary.

IV. The numerous and insupportable hardships to which the royal family of Oude had been reduced, in consequence of their connection with the supreme council.

V. With having, by no less than six revolutions, brought the fertile and beautiful provinces of Farruckabad to a state of the most deplorable ruin.

VI. With impoverishing and depopulating the whole country of Oude, and rendering that country, which was once a garden, an uninhabited desert.

that the impeachment was voted; it was then carried without a division. The following was the committee appointed to manage the prosecution, in the name of the commons:

Edmund Burke, Esq; Right Hon. C. J. Fox; R. B. Sheridan, Esq; Right Hon. T. Pelham; Right Hon. W. Windham; Sir Gilbert Elliott, Bt.: Charles Grey, Esq; William Adam, Esq; Sir John Anstruther; M. A. Taylor, Esq; Lord Viscount Maitland; Dudley Long, Esq; General J. Burgoyne; Hon. George A. North; Hon. Andrew St. John; Hon. A. Fitzherbert; Colonel Fitzpatrick; John Courtenay, Esq; A. Rogers; Sir James Erskine.

On the 13th February 1788, the trial commenced in Westminster-hall; and SEVEN YEARS afterwards,

VII. With a wanton, an unjust, and pernicious exercise of his powers, and the great situation of trust which he occupied in India, in overturning the ancient establishments of the country, and extending an undue influence by conniving at extravagant contracts, and appointing inordinate salaries.

VIII. With receiving money against the orders of the company, the act of parliament, and his own sacred engagements; and applying that money to purposes totally improper and unauthorized.

IX. With having resigned by proxy for the obvious purpose of retaining his situation, and denying the deed in person, in direct opposition to all those powers under which he acted.

X. Accuses him of treachery to Muzuffer Jung, who had been placed under his guardianship.

XI. Charges him with enormous extravagance and bribery in various contracts, with a view to enrich his dependants and favourites.

These are the principal; the other eleven are chiefly connected with, and dependant upon the foregoing.

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on the 23d of April 1795, judgment was pronounced by the Lords on the charges, most of them severally, and Mr. Hastings was acquitted of them all.*

The unprecedented duration of the trial was an evil, wherever the fault lay, of an enormous extent, both as it bore upon the public and Mr. Hastings, but it was more especially grievous to the latter. The expences to the public of this trial amounted to more than 100,000*l.*; and Mr. Hastings' law expences to more than 60,000*l.* In consideration of the latter, and of his services, the East India Company voted him an annual pension of 4000*l.* for twenty-eight years and a half, amounting to 114,000*l.* of which the company gave him 42,000*l.* in advance, and lent him beside 50,000*l.* And it is just to observe, that the company took other measures to declare their belief of his innocence.

Mr. Hastings is said to be a good architect and engineer. His literary attainments are certainly very extraordinary for a man who passed more than thirty-three years of his life in active scenes of business in

* Twenty-nine were the greatest number of peers who voted on this occasion. On the first article of the impeachment twenty-three voted *not guilty*, and six *guilty*. On two of the articles the vote of *not guilty* was unanimous. The Lord Chancellor pronounced the judgment in the following words, "Warren Hastings, Esq. I am to acquaint you that you are **ACQUITTED** of the **ARTICLES of IMPEACHMENT**, &c. exhibited against you by the House of Commons, for High Crimes and Misdemeanors, and all things contained therein, and you are discharged, paying your fees."

such

such a service as that of the East India Company, and who entered their service before he was seventeen.

We shall conclude this memoir with the following elegant specimen of Mr. Hastings' poetical powers. It is a rare instance that a man unites in his own person such various talents, in so great a degree of excellence. This beautiful imitation of the OTIUM DIVOS of Horace, is said to have been written while on his passage to England, in 1785.

For ease the harassed seaman prays,
When equinoctial tempests raise
The Cape's surrounding wave;
When hanging o'er the reef he hears
The cracking mast, and sees or fears,
Beneath, his wat'ry grave:
For ease the slow Mahratta spoils,
And hardier Seik erratic toils,
While both their ease forego;
For ease, which neither gold can buy,
Nor robes, nor gems, which oft bely
The cover'd heart, bestow.
For neither gold nor gems combin'd
Can heal the soul or suffering mind.
Lo! where their owner lies:
Perch'd on his couch Distemper breathes,
And Care, like smoke, in turbid wreaths,
Round the gay ceiling flies.
He who enjoys, nor covets more,
The lands his father held before,
Is of true bliss possess'd;
Let but his mind unfetter'd tread,
Far as the paths of knowledge lead,
And wise, as well as blest.

No

No fears his peace of mind annoy,
Lest printed lies his fame destroy,
Which labor'd years have won ;
Nor pack'd Committees break his rest,
Nor avarice sends him forth in quest
Of climes beneath the Sun.
Short is our span ; then why engage
In schemes for which man's transient age
Was ne'er by fate design'd ?
Why slight the gifts of Nature's hand ?
What wanderer from his native land
E'er left himself behind ?
The restless thought and wayward will,
And discontent, attend him still,
Nor quit him while he lives ;
At sea, Care follows in the wind ;
At land, it mounts the pad behind,
Or with the post-boy drives.
He who would happy live to-day,
Must laugh the present ills away,
Nor think of woes to come ;
For come they will, or soon or late,
Since mix'd at best is man's estate,
By Heav'n's eternal doom.
To ripen'd age CLIVE liv'd renown'd,
With lacks enrich'd, with honours crown'd,
His valour's well-earn'd meed.
Too long, alas ! he liv'd to hate
His envied lot, and died too late,
From life's oppression freed.
An early death was ELLIOTT's doom ;
I saw his opening virtues bloom,
And manly sense unfold,
Too soon to fade. I bade the stone
Record his name, 'midst hordes unknown,
Unknowing what it told.
To thee, perhaps, the Fates may give,
I wish they may, in health to live,

Here,

Herds, flocks, and fruitful fields;
 Thy vacant hours in mirth to shire;
 With these the Muse, already thine,
 Her present bounty yields.
 For me, O Squire, I only claim,
 To merit, not to seek for, fame.
 The good and just to please;
 A state above the fear of want,
 Domestic love, Heaven's choicest grant,
 Health, leisure, peace, and ease.



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